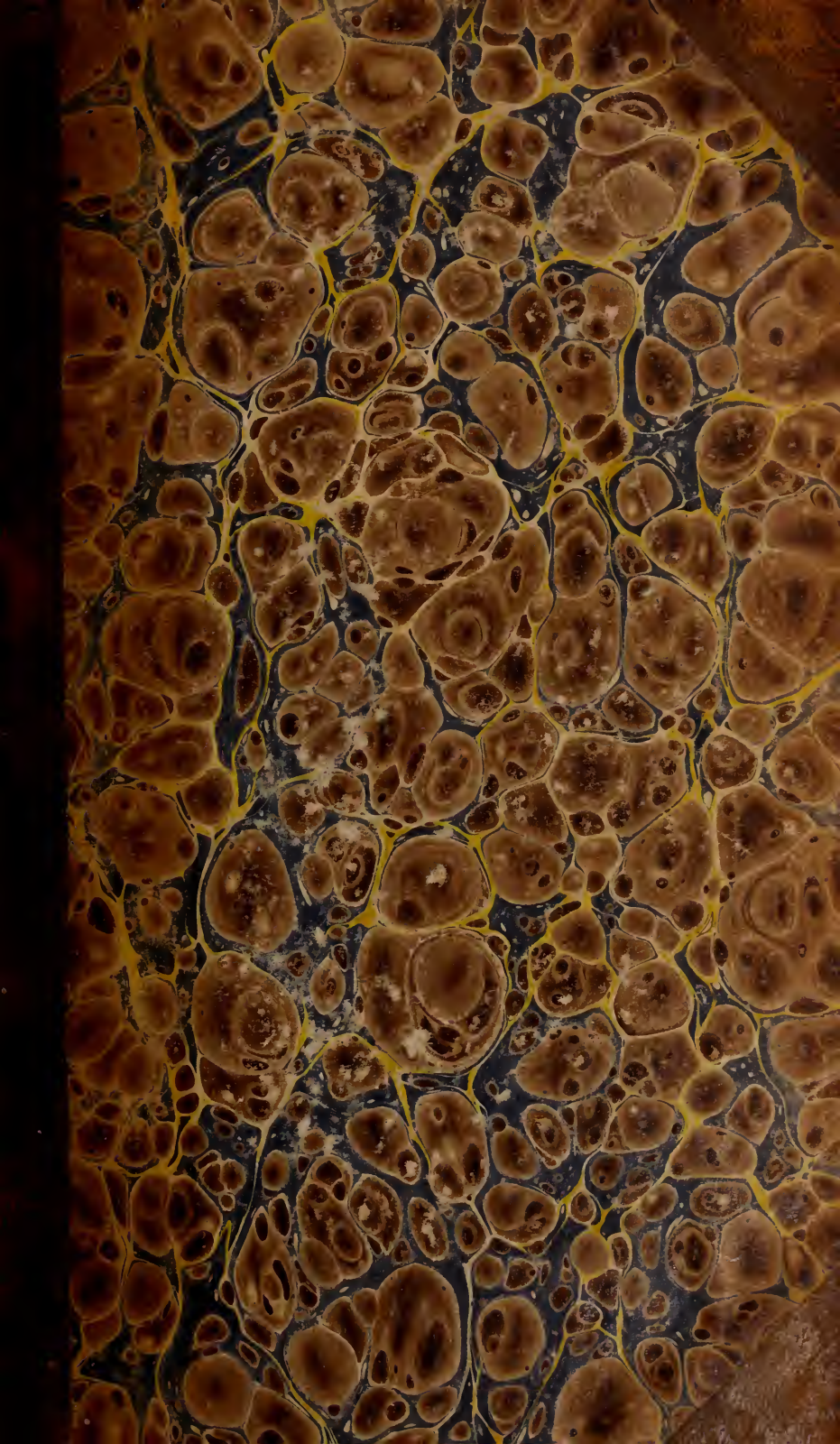

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UNITED BRETHREN'S

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCER,

AND

Religious Miscellany;

CONTAINING THE MOST RECENT ACCOUNTS RELATING TO THE UNITED BRETHREN'S MISSIONS AMONG THE HEATHEN; WITH OTHER INTERESTING COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THAT CHURCH.

No. 11.] THIRD QUARTER, 1839. [Vol. VI.

[From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.]

I. JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO THE MISSIONARY SETTLEMENTS OF ENON AND SHILOH, IN THE YEAR 1837, BY BROTHER H. P. HALLBECK, BISHOP OF THE BRETHREN'S CHURCH, AND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(Concluded from page 446.)

The Mission-premises at Shiloh, are situated on the south side of the settlement, which is built on a level plot, thirty-six feet above the bed of the Klipplaat. More to the north are about thirty huts, constructed like a roof resting on the ground,* and inhabited by the Hottentots, and two baptized Tambookie families. They inclose a quadrangle, in the middle of which stands the church, used likewise, for the present, as a school. It is proposed to exchange these sheds, by degrees, for more substantial cottages; and I was pleased to see one such house finished, and two others in progress. All the cattle-kraals, including that of the Missionaries, are situated on the west side of the place; and round them are ranged the hive-shaped huts of the Tambookies, Mambookies, &c., to the number of 100. Those of the Mambookies and Fingoes strikingly exceed the rest in neatness. The main portions of the gardens and fields lie to the north and north-east, along the bank of the river. The approach to the place from the Kat-river, i. e. from the south-west, is not very inviting, as the cattle-kraals and Tambookie huts come first in sight: the more agreeably, however, is the visitor surprised, when fruitful fields and gardens present themselves in a spot which promises so little.

A short distance up the stream, is the garden of the Missionaries, which a beautiful quince hedge on one side, and a deep trench on the other, secure from the irruption of the numerous

* Commonly called Hartebeest-houses.

cattle. It produces potatoes, and all the common vegetables, of excellent quality, and in greater abundance than is required for their own table. Tobacco, for which there is a ready sale, is also cultivated here, besides vines, and other fruit-trees. But the proper orchard lies three-quarters of a mile distant, near the site formerly occupied by the settlement, and contains a considerable number of trees, such as peach, apple, apricot, almond, and walnut-trees; orange and pear trees have not yet succeeded here. A large quantity of fruit, especially peaches, is dried every year, and is found very useful in the house-keeping.

The maintenance of the Mission is yet more materially assisted by the farm,—all the grain requisite for its consumption being raised on the spot. And though the corn-fields are exposed to the ravages of locusts, hail-storms, and sharp night-frosts at the latter end of the season, the harvest has never yet been seriously injured by them, but has yielded from 60 to 100 fold. Grazing is another important source of income. Such are the facilities for breeding cattle, that no draught-oxen have ever to be bought; milk, butter, and soap, are in superfluity; and the flock of sheep, consisting of 1700 head, not only supplies the larder plentifully, but yields a yearly surplus for sale. Such articles, on the contrary, as cannot be procured on the spot, are very dear, owing to the laborious and expensive carriage. To this head belong clothing, groceries, crockery, &c., and the greatest economy is therefore observed in the use of these articles. Upon the whole, however, the Tambookie-Mission is not likely to prove a very burdensome one, especially when the mill is once brought to a completion, as it will have the custom of the whole neighbourhood.

We were much struck, soon after our arrival at Shiloh, with the sudden changes in the weather, and the diversity of its climate from that of the country nearer to the coast. South of the mountains, we had enjoyed a mild, spring temperature; but the first night that we passed on their northern declivity was unusually cold, and the day which followed so hot and sultry, that the thermometer would probably have stood at above 100°. Stormy weather succeeded, though without rain, and then some days so cold that we were glad to have recourse to winter clothing; and in the night of November 4th, there was a sharp frost, which occasioned considerable injury to the gardens, especially among the vines, maize, melons, and kidney-beans. These sudden alterations of temperature, sometimes affecting the thermometer to the extent of 50 or 60 degrees in a few hours, must necessarily produce catarrhs and rheumatic complaints. Our brethren however say, that the climate is by no means unhealthy, if moderate caution be observed. We were surprised to hear that there had no rain fallen since the beginning of September, though on the Kat-river, and round Graham's-town, it had rained at intervals during the whole period. In general, little or no rain falls here during the winter months; but in summer, particularly in January and February, thunder-showers are not un-

frequent, often accompanied by destructive hail-storms. Winds of extraordinary violence are common at all seasons, and are sometimes so furious, that, in this exposed situation, the inhabitants dare scarcely venture out of their houses.

The general appearance of the country presents a contrast not less marked to that of the seaward district; and, on crossing the mountains, a new world seems to open upon us. While, to the south, the plains are covered with a great variety of plants and shrubs, and woods and thickets are not wanting, the north side of the ridge shows neither tree nor shrub, far as the eye can reach—nothing but an undulating expanse of hill and vale, carpeted with grass. On approaching Shiloh, however, there is some improvement; and thorn-bushes are seen here and there, bristling the sides of the hills. All the surrounding valleys, too, contain brushwood, which being of rapid growth, will furnish a sufficient supply of fuel for years to come. Timber is likewise more easily to be procured at Shiloh than in most other parts of the Colony. That for our mill was felled on the Windvogels-berg, fourteen or fifteen miles from the place; but beams and planks of all sorts might probably be got with less expense from the woods on the Kat river. Further to the north, this necessary article becomes exceedingly scarce: in some districts, and those the coldest, dried cow-dung is the only fuel; and, during our stay here, a Missionary came with three wagons from beyond the Caledon river, a twelve days' journey, to fetch timber for a new church and dwelling-house, from the Kat river. Hitherto our Missionaries have failed in their attempts to grow oaks, firs, and poplars on the banks of the Klipplaat,—the young plantations having been destroyed either by the severe cold of winter, or the strong winds prevalent throughout the year, or the custom of setting the grass on fire to improve the pasturage, besides occasional damage done to the trees by the cattle. It remains to be seen, whether a trial made in some sheltered hollow, properly fenced in, may not be more successful.

The distinguishing advantage of Shiloh, however, is its invaluble streamlet, which affords an unfailing supply of clear, sweet water. Yet this stream was not made fully available, till our Brethren, with considerable labour and expense, completed their two water-courses, which are justly admired by every visitor. The first, which waters a hundred acres of land, was finished in 1831, and fertilizes most of the fields and gardens. The second, 6000 paces long, was completed by Brother Fritsch in 1834, and irrigates a large plain of very rich corn-land, besides being in readiness to turn the mill.

It is gratifying in the highest degree to see rude savages, who, before our coming, knew nothing of the use of the plough and spade, who regarded manual labour as disgraceful, and the yoking of oxen as abominable cruelty, now vying with one another in all kinds of field-work and gardening. I cannot describe my sensations as I walked through luxuriant fields, where there was

formerly only a scanty herbage; and where, ten years ago, I saw nothing but the tracks of lions and their startled prey, I now beheld troops of the black and brown inhabitants of Africa, busily occupied in their fields and gardens.

Considerable pains are requisite to keep the water-courses in proper repair, as they are constantly liable to be choked up with sand, or by the falling in of the banks. This gives rise to frequent jealousies and difference between the Hottentots and Tambookies, as the former, who are better workmen and more constantly resident than the latter, are apt to claim an exclusive right to the water in return for their services. Perhaps the difficulty would be best obviated by laying a rate on each family, in proportion to the quantity of land which they cultivate, thus forming a fund for the needful repairs, in the appropriation of which, it would be well to associate one or two Hottentots and Tambookies with the Missionaries. The latter plan might also be adopted with great benefit, in adjusting the distribution of the water, when the supply is more scanty than usual.

Besides labouring in their fields and gardens, many of the Hottentots fell wood in the mountains, which they dispose of either in the settlement, or amongst the neighbouring colonists. Some again, have learned trades, which they carry on either under the direction of the Missionaries, or on their own account, and which pay them well; though, in so thin a population, their employment cannot be constant. It is no small advantage to the settlement, to have smiths, carpenters, bricklayers, and thatchers, within itself.

Along with agriculture, pasturage is a main source of support to both black and brown inhabitants. The latter is the favourite pursuit of the Tambookies especially, and the tribes akin to them; and this neighbourhood presents peculiar advantages for it. Exclusive of sheep and goats, the herds of the Tambookies and Hottentots amount to 2,000 head, chiefly kine, which come home to the kraals every evening, in long rows, to be milked, looking so sleek and fat, that one cannot but excuse their owners for the great partiality they show to this employment. In some parts of the year, milk is the only sustenance of the Tambookies; and it always forms an important part of their diet. In order to keep it, they have leather sacks, into which the new milk is poured every day, where, mixed with the sour, it soon becomes sour too. The Cape farmers maintain that this thick milk is uncommonly nutritious; and the appearance of the Caffres, large-limbed and muscular as they are, who live on little else from infancy to old age, seems to establish the fact beyond all reasonable doubt.

The large herds of game which formerly browzed undisturbed in this vicinity have gradually withdrawn, giving place to the domesticated animals; but innumerable troops of the larger kinds of antelope, such as gnoos, hartebeests, and blessbocks, still frequent the Windvogels-berg. During my stay, a few Hottentots

and Tambookies returned, after two days' hunting, with a wagon-load of venison, having killed seven gnoos and eight blessbocks. They had also given chase to two lions and a number of hyenas.

In general, a good spirit prevails between the different classes of the population. The Tambookies look up to the Hottentots as their protectors in the hour of danger. The latter, though often annoyed by the begging habits of the black inhabitants, treat them with kindness, in consideration of the various services which they receive from them. Many of them, also, keep in view the important object for which they first removed hither,—namely, to be instrumental in bringing these ignorant heathen to the knowledge and enjoyment of the blessings of the Gospel; and, where this is the case, hearts readily unite in love, notwithstanding all difference in blood, language, and customs.

The number of the population is extremely variable. Roving habits are a second nature with most of the Tambookies, and, as their whole stock of moveables goes into a small compass, they will often change their place of abode for a mere trifle. Many of them leave Shiloh in winter for a warmer neighbourhood, on account of their cattle, which are apt to lose flesh in this bleak situation. The return of spring, however, brings the wanderers back to attend to their fields and gardens, and at harvest-time, the whole neighbourhood flock in crowds to the settlement, some to earn, others to beg a share in the overflowing produce of the fields and gardens; so that, at this season, the population is doubled. This constant fluctuation is a severe trial to the patience of the Missionaries, both children and adults being not unfrequently removed from their care, just when the prospect of success appeared most promising. Still, the good seed sown here is thus scattered far and wide throughout the land, and we may confidently hope, that He who has promised that his Word shall not return unto Him void, will, in this instance also, cause it to accomplish that whereto He sent it. The place becomes better and better known, and individuals are everywhere met with, who have attended the school and church at Shiloh, and retain a grateful remembrance of the benefits which they received here. At the commencement of 1837, Shiloh had 496 inhabitants. The Missionaries calculated, that at present there were rather more, viz., about 209 Hottentots, and 300 Tambookies, Mambookies, &c.

The Bushmen are classed along with the Hottentots, as generally using the same dialect. A few families of these poor, degraded beings, have been received as inhabitants at Shiloh from the vicinity, and the labours of our Brethren have not been entirely fruitless among them, one woman being admitted as a candidate for the Holy Communion. It is, however, exceedingly difficult to wean them from their hereditary customs, and inspire them with a liking for pasturage and agriculture. Thus, nearly all of them had left Shiloh before our arrival, to spend the summer in hunting, or, in default of game, to live on locusts and wild berries or roots. There are caves in the neighbouring rocks

which were, till lately, inhabited by Bushmen, and which we found covered with drawings of men and animals in black and red chalk, exhibiting much spirit in their outlines. In one of these caves, the Brethren Fritsch and Bonatz, two years ago, met with a Bushman family, who lay huddled together like a brood of wild beasts in their lair, and destitute of any thing betokening a human habitation. It was the more gratifying to me to see a girl of this tribe employed in the Missionary garden, who was busy from morning to night, and seemed to execute her task with right good will. I looked upon it as a proof that their case is not a hopeless one.

To the black part of the population belong Tambookies, Caffres, Mantatees, Sootoos, Fingoes, and others. Most of the Fingoes at Shiloh are of Mambookie origin, and are distinguished by holes bored in the lobe of the ear, so large that, in many instances, it appears as if the ear were double. Though this custom obtains amongst several tribes of the interior, it is, in Caffraria, confined to the Fingoes, so that when a traveller meets one of this class, and is in doubt as to what tribe he belongs, the latter points to his ear. As the term *Fingoe* signifies a *slave*, I was powerfully reminded by this custom of Exod. xxi. 6.

For the rest, these various tribes are so much alike, that it requires a practised eye to discern any difference between them: their several dialects are essentially the same language, and their national character and manners are the same. Without attempting a description of the Caffres and their congeners, I will merely observe, that in one feature of their character, they differ widely from the Hottentots, and indeed, from most uncivilized nations. The latter are careless as to the future, and live from hand to mouth; nor is the most painful experience sufficient to teach them forethought. With the Caffres it is quite the reverse; and this, combined with various other circumstances, seems to confirm the idea, that they have once enjoyed a much higher degree of cultivation than they exhibit at present. Covetousness is the leading feature in their character, and their eagerness to acquire, is only equalled by their disposition to hoard. This propensity seems, indeed, to be the source of all their principal vices.

Most of them are yet heathens; but they engaged, on settling here, to renounce their heathenish customs, to live according to the Word of God, and the regulations of the congregation, and to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded them and their children for instruction. As far as I had an opportunity to judge, the Tambookie meetings and schools were well attended, and, excepting an occasional burst of passion, I saw nothing to remind me that they were heathens. Indeed, the fear of forfeiting their fruitful gardens operates as no small check upon them; and the Missionaries all remarked, that, for some time past, they had been more orderly and docile than usual, though we must not expect any permanent improvement in them, until they have experienced a change of heart. Less has been accomplished, in this respect,

than we could have wished, only nineteen adult Tambookies, besides children, having been baptized since the commencement of the Mission, though there are, at present, about the same number of candidates for that rite. It is worthy of notice, that, with the exception of four individuals, who were baptized in the beginning, before the Missionaries had learned to know them thoroughly, not one of them has left the congregation. They are distinguished by their exemplary conduct, and appear to set a high value on the privilege of belonging to a church of Christ, of which they gave a pleasing testimony to myself and Sister Halbeck, at the individual speaking with them. There appears, therefore, to be truth in the remark, that, when once converted, the Caffres adhere to their new faith with the same firmness which before marked their attachment to their heathen ways, unlike their more versatile neighbors the Hottentots. Should this be confirmed by further experience, we may hope to see many decided followers of the Saviour from this tribe.

Nor must we forget, that the Missionaries could effect little for several years, from their ignorance of the language, and that, though Brother Bonatz can now speak it, it remains very imperfect in its application to spiritual ideas. A few fragments only of the Scriptures have hitherto been translated into it, and a very scanty collection of hymns; and few of the natives continue long enough under the sound of the Word, to become sufficiently acquainted with the expression of religious truth. We have, therefore, far more cause to wonder that *so much* has been done, than to complain that it is not *more*.

The prevalence of two distinct languages amongst their charge, has considerably increased the labour of the Missionaries, as the services both on Sundays and week-days, with the exception of Thursday, have hitherto been performed in both. To obviate this inconvenience, I recommended that, retaining the double preaching on Sunday, the other meetings should be held alternately, in the Dutch and Caffre languages. This may, perhaps, have the effect of inducing both classes to learn each other's language, a desirable result on various accounts. It would also, in my opinion, be advisable to blend the two schools together, as soon as the Missionaries are completely acquainted with both languages. The Caffre school, at present, is kept by Brother Bonatz; out of 100 on the books, I found 68 present when I called,—the rest being engaged with the cattle, or in the gardens; and a fair proportion of them could read very tolerably. I was struck and gratified by their frank and open manner, and by their thoughtfulness, which seemed far above their years. They were not at all afraid of expressing their dissent, when any thing occurred in their lessons which they thought not right; and modestly, but boldly, brought arguments in support of their opinion. It is very clear that they are not deficient in mental powers, however the developement of them may be retarded by outward circumstances. The Dutch school, kept by Brother Hoffman, is only about half as numerous.

At the celebration of the Lord's Supper, on the 19th of November, thirty-six Hottentots and Tambookies were present, one of the latter, for the first time: strengthened by this enjoyment, and thankful to the Lord for the gracious help we had experienced from Him during our three weeks' visit here, we next day commenced our return. The Brethren Hoffman, Bonatz, and Küster, accompanied us for the first stage, to the foot of the pass, and just as we reached the summit, three of our Hottentots overtook us on horseback, who, having business at Graham's town, had contrived their journey, so that they might assist us in the hazardous descent of the mountain. This proof of their attachment gave us great pleasure; and their services were by no means superfluous. Indeed, I was at a loss to conceive how we could have effected the descent at all, without shattering the wagon to pieces, had it not been for such extraordinary help, till I learned the expedient commonly resorted to, which was to attach heavy branches, or even entire crests of trees, to the hinder part of the vehicle, thus checking its plunges forwards, and still more dangerous sideway jerks. Notwithstanding every precaution, however, many accidents occur in this passage, and we were heartily thankful to find ourselves, towards evening, in the fine valley of the Kat-river.

On the 21st, I paid a short visit to Mr. Read, jun., at Philipton, and met at his house Hendrick Joseph, formerly an inhabitant of Enon, who had come to pay his respects to us. I was glad to receive from Mr. Reade, a very favorable testimony regarding the various Hottentots from Enon and Shiloh, who are now settled along the Kat-river. He stated that they not only retain great affection for their former teachers, but, for the most part, walk worthy of the Gospel, and that some of them hold occasional meetings for their families and neighbours.

Not far from Philipton is Fort-Armstrong, most romantically situated on a small promontory formed by a bend of the river. During the late Caffre war, the whole population of the district, amounting to 4,000, took refuge in it. Towards evening we left the Kat-river, and turned to the right, at Blinkwater, into a delightful valley, where the grass was so rich, that we could not but regret that there were no cattle there to enjoy it. Our own oxen regaled themselves plentifully during their night quarters, and well it was for them, as the pasturage grew more and more scanty as we proceeded next day; and along the Koonap, the Riet-river, the two Fish-rivers, and the dried up Bushman's-river, there was no grass at all, so that they had to satisfy themselves with the bushes, till, on the 24th, we reached the Zumberg-ridge.

This tended, however, to accelerate our progress, and we arrived at Enon on the afternoon of the 25th. Our Brethren were in rather low spirits, as, though some rain had fallen since we left them, they had no hopes of being able to sow their land this year. After despatching our business here, we left the place again, December 2d, taking with us William Klein, a youth des-

tined for the rising seminary at Genadendal. Having two teams of oxen, we reached Uitenhage the same evening, where we were cordially received by Mr. Messer. He has laboured here for about six years, and has baptized in that period 153 adults and 117 children.

An Auxiliary to the London Missionary Society has been established here, which held its anniversary on the 3d and 4th. On the first of these days, I preached sermons, by request of the committee, and was surprised to see so numerous an attendance. Their hearts seemed to be opened to the Word of the Lord, of which I had various pleasing testimonies before I left Uitenhage. The next day was the public meeting of the Association, at which I was requested to take the chair; and there was again a large attendance, both of whites and coloured people. Mr. Robson, the Missionary at Port Elizabeth, communicated the latest accounts from Madagascar; I gave some statements regarding our Missions under the Dutch and Danish Government, and two members of Mr. Messer's church, who had but recently been emancipated, made very appropriate and affecting addresses. The collection at the close amounted to upwards of sixty dollars, Cape currency.

Having renewed our old acquaintance at Uitenhage, and formed several new ones, we resumed our journey on the 5th, thankful for the blessings we had enjoyed, and the cordiality which had been shown to us by all classes of the inhabitants. At Dornenkraal, an hour's distance from the town, we spent an agreeable day with our old and tried friends, Col. Cuyler and his family. His hearing is almost gone, and his good lady is also burdened with the infirmities of age, yet, though thus reminded of the end of their days, it was a pleasure to them to revive the memory of the past, on occasion of our visit. Bethelsdorp occupied us in the following forenoon. At Mrs. Kitchingman's, whose husband was from home, we had the pleasure to meet with a company of French Missionaries, recently arrived from Europe; one of whom, Madame Daumas, proved to be the daughter of that well-known and zealous minister, Monsieur Colany-Nêe, and to have been educated at Montmirail, an institution of the Brethren's church, near Neufchatel. The appearance of the place has been considerably improved by the erection of several substantial houses, fourteen years ago; but we were sorry to find half of them standing empty, the number of inhabitants having fallen off. This is easily accounted for, by the high price of provisions, produced by the long droughts, and the lowering of the rate of wages at Port Elizabeth, through the employment of the Fingoes. There were, notwithstanding, 120 children attending in the well-regulated schools of the settlement.

In the afternoon, we visited Port Elizabeth, which has sprung up, on the shore of Algoa Bay, since 1820, and carries on a brisk traffic. This little town is the harbour of the eastern division of the colony; and we saw five ships at anchor, bound for Cape-

town, England, or Mauritius. The houses are all covered with tiles, made in the neighbourhood, which gives the place a very pleasing appearance, and distinguishes it from every other town in the colony. The population is reckoned at from 1,500 to 1,600, the chief part of whom are English. Amongst the working class are many Fingoes, who are distinguished here, as everywhere, for industry and sobriety. There is an Episcopal church, and a chapel in connexion with the London Missionary Society, which is also used as a school, both on Sundays and week-days, for all classes and colours. Mr. Robson's labors here, during six years, have been blessed both to white and coloured people.

Though the wind was very violent, we continued our journey in the evening; crossed, on the 7th, the deep defile through which Van Stade's-river finds its way into the sea; and passing the Chamtoos-ferry on the 8th, reached Mr. Wagenaars, of Rondebosch, where we found our Genadendal oxen in excellent condition, having been pastured here, since the 6th of October, for the moderate charge of six Cape dollars. With these, we proceeded over hill and dale at a round pace. Rain came on in the evening, and continued all the next day; but we hastened on, anxious to cross the several fords of the Kromm-river before they were swollen so as to obstruct our passage, which we happily effected. But, on the 11th, it rained so heavily that we were forced to remain stationary. Such a compulsory halt is a severe trial of patience; it is impossible to employ oneself with any comfort in such a cramped position; and there is, moreover, the apprehension, lest the swollen rivers and slippery roads should interpose a further delay when the rain has ceased. Nevertheless, we participated in the general gratitude for the welcome showers. The rain abating in the afternoon, we ventured to try the slippery heights which lay before us, and succeeded, contrary to our expectations, in reaching the Langekloof by sunset.

We had fine weather during our progress through this valley. On reaching Keurboom's-river, at noon of the 14th, we turned along its banks, quitting the Langekloof for the mountainous district between it and Plettenberg Bay. Passing three residences on our way, we halted for the night a league beyond the last of them, belonging to Mr. Hans Barthuizen. Next day, we reached the place of his son-in-law, Mr. Van Royen, where we hoped to be able to hire fresh oxen to help us up the hills. He requested us so pressingly to stay over the Sunday with him, till the 18th, and keep Divine service at his house and that of his father-in-law, that we could not resist. Accordingly, I accompanied him, on the 17th, to the latter mansion, and held a meeting to the numerous family, many of whom, and especially the aged couple, were moved to tears. In the evening, I held a short service to Mr. Van Royen's small family, and next morning we commenced our toilsome mountain journey under his guidance.

Though I have been accustomed for twenty years to the difficult mountain roads of the colony, and had heard and read various

descriptions of the pass from the Langekloof to the Knysna, I must confess that I had formed but a poor conception of the reality. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how any one should ever have dreamed of passing over such steeps with a loaded wagon. Mr. Van Royen told me that the road, if road it can be called, owes its existence to an eccentric German, who ordered his son to fetch a wagon-load of wood across the mountain, though it should cost him every ox, or never venture into his presence again. The young man actually succeeded in the task, after incredible exertions, sometimes fixing both the hind wheels on the same side of the wagon, and the two smaller ones on the other, to prevent it from overturning, while passing along the slope of the hills. He is said to have been three months, in making the same distance that can now be travelled in a day. Yet he succeeded, and others, stimulated by his example, followed in his track, till at length a difficult footpath was changed into a still more difficult wagon-road. It is, however, evident at once, that the worst places on the road might be much improved, if a few laborers were set to work on it, which would be of the greatest advantage to the central parts of the colony, opening to them a communication with Plettenberg Bay and the Knysna.

With strong oxen, accustomed to the hills, and a careful driver, we safely surmounted one ridge after another. I had to walk most of the way, and either assist with the wagon or lead the horse on which my wife rode. Thus we crossed the Black Height, Michael's Height, Assegaybush-berg, and the Deep-river hills, before night. On the 19th, we cleared the rocky ridge of the Paardekop without any accident. The prospect from its peak, over the plains and forests which extended from the Zitzikamma to the vicinity of George, amply repaid us for the toils of the ascent. Hence, sending back our relay, we proceeded with our own cattle over a number of lower eminences, and next day reached the Knysna, where we were received in the kindest manner by Mr. Rex and his numerous and accomplished family, who did every thing in their power to make our stay agreeable. We had not contemplated a halt of more than two days; but, as we soon found, that this would be too short to allow us to inspect the neighbourhood and decide on its eligibility for a Mission settlement, according to the wish of Mr. Rex and other colonists, we yielded to his pressing invitation to spend the Christmas with them.

The estuary of the Knysna, about four miles in width, forms a safe harbour for vessels not exceeding 250 tons. It is not as yet, however, so much frequented as it will probably be ere long, partly because of the bad roads into the interior. The mouth of the estuary is also narrow, so that vessels can only enter, with certain winds, except a small steamer should be kept to tow them in. I visited a signal-tower erected here by government, but the establishment of which they have since withdrawn. The sons of Mr. Rex, however, still contrive to make signals to vessels in the

offing, by means of a white and red flag, indicating whether wind and tide will permit them to run in, or otherwise.

On the 22d, I made another excursion with the son-in-law of our worthy host. We first rode to the landing place, not quite a mile from the mansion, where two ships were taking in their cargoes. The largest, of about 150 tons, belongs to Mr. Rex; and it was built of timber from the adjacent forests. This article, also, forms, at present, the principal export; but the trade admits of considerable extension in other branches, if the roads were once made passable. Hence we rode on to Melville, a small settlement close by, for which Mr. Rex ceded the necessary land to government a few years ago. Two merchants have now settled here, who export wood, and carry on a coasting trade with the neighbouring colonists; the remaining two or three families subsist by fishing, and other manual labor. We next mounted the hills, and took a view of the forests, which, though not absolutely *inexhaustible*, as they are wont to be denominated—especially, if, according to the country custom, it is all felling and no planting, —supply a store of timber such as is not to be met with any where else in South Africa, and which might be rendered inexhaustible under an amended system. All the kinds of timber common in the colony, such as yellow-wood, stink-wood, assagai-wood, &c. are met with in these forests, which skirt the southern acclivity of the mountain chain from George to the eastern extremity of the Zitzikamma; and are, in many parts, quite impervious, furnishing a secure covert for elephants and buffaloes. The higher parts of the mountains, and the valleys below, which are bare of wood, are thickly covered with grass, whose freshness and verdure are preserved by the sea breezes. Neat cattle thrive well here, and fatter oxen are nowhere to be seen; but the moisture of the climate is not so favourable for sheep.

On the 23d, I went, with two sons of Mr. Rex, to Whittelsbach, the site proposed for a settlement. It lies to the east of his domain, and seems very well adapted for a Missionary station, provided the inhabitants are satisfied to live by agriculture and mechanic arts, as the space is too confined for grazing cattle. The soil is fertile, and the Whittelsbach flows with a clear and constant stream, which might with little trouble be distributed over the fields. The climate is so cool and moist, that gardens would answer even without irrigation; and the proximity of the woods, and of the harbour, which is about two leagues distant, offer singular advantages for the support of a labouring class.—Many circumstances, however, require to be considered before any steps can be taken in the matter; and, for the present, I could only assure our friends, that I would willingly do my part towards the accomplishment of their wishes.

On Sunday, December 24th, I preached in the great hall of our host; he and his wife, with ten of their children, and his whole household, besides several neighbours, being my attentive hearers. In the evening I read the history of the Nativity, and closed with

prayer. On Christmas-day, I preached again; and, in the evening, we took a cordial farewell of our kind friends on the Knysna. On the 26th, we traversed a sandy and hilly country to the Goukamma, which flows through a finely wooded valley. This ford, as well as those of Reugte-valley and Zwart-river, is not without danger.

Next day we proceeded, with a relay of fourteen oxen, through the deep ravine of Trekatakou, where the wagon had some difficulty in descending the ledges of rock which traversed the road. We were, however, soon through it. The next pass, the Kayman's Gat, is said to have been far more dangerous; but the old road having become impracticable, a new one has been lately cut through a thick wood, which is easier. Yet, though there were no masses of rock in our path, there were two places so steep as to put the strength of our oxen to the stretch to pull up the empty wagon. In the middle of the wood, which is about a league in depth, we met the Civil Commissioner of the district; and the road, which is yet incomplete, being only just broad enough for one wagon, we had to spend much time and labour to widen it, by felling trees, before we could pass each other.

Having cleared this pass, we pursued our route with our own oxen, without any remarkable occurrence, till we reached Mr. Sauermann's, at Vals-river, December 30th. Here we found the hides of the two lame oxen which we had left in his care, and which had grown so much worse that they had to be killed. We crossed the Kafferkuils-river the same evening, and next day concluded the year 1837, in prayer and supplication to the Lord, on the banks of the Krombeks-river.

January 1st, we pursued our way, through an arid country, towards Zwellendam, through which we passed next day. Along the Zonderend I called on several of our acquaintances, who told us how much they had enjoyed the celebration of the Christmas-festival at Genadendal. As we approached the place, we were glad to observe that the ground was not so parched as it was further eastwards; and we heard, with lively joy and gratitude, that the harvest had, in general, been a very fruitful one.

At length, towards evening on the 4th, we reached our beloved home, and were greeted in the accustomed manner by our European and African brethren and sisters. We could not look back on our long journey, without feelings of the deepest thankfulness to our merciful Lord, who had so graciously assisted and preserved us. Nor shall we cease to retain a pleasing remembrance of the distinguished kindness shown us by the colonists, amongst whom we have learned to know many worthy individuals, who value the one thing needful, and feel an intimate union of spirit with our church.

H. P. Hallbeck.

II. LABRADOR.

The history of the Mission in Labrador, during the progress of the official year, which was brought to a close by the safe arrival of the Harmony in the Thames, on the 18th October, presents but few striking features. Neither have our Missionary Brethren to tell of sufferings and privations, like those to which themselves and their Esquimaux flocks were exposed in the winter of 1836—1837; nor have the captain and crew of our little vessel to record a series of imminent dangers and merciful deliverances, similar to those which rendered the voyage of the previous year so memorable. The period we are invited to review has, on the whole, been marked by many mercies, and but few trials. Our Esquimaux congregations have been blessed with peace and comparative plenty; our fellow-servants have been enabled to prosecute their labours with but little interruption from ill-health, or other causes; and our frail, but highly favoured bark, has performed her annual voyage in safety, having been less exposed than usual to the peculiar hazards with which the navigation of the Labrador seas is always attended. We have, therefore, abundant cause to invite our Brethren and our Christian friends to rejoice with us before the Lord;—*To enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise;—to be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good;—His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth to all generations.*" (Ps. c. 4, 5.)

Of the voyage of the Harmony, the following is a brief outline: On the 13th June, she weighed anchor at Horsleydown, and, after a tedious and somewhat boisterous passage down Channel and along the south coast of Ireland, reached the broad Atlantic about the end of the month. Owing to the continued prevalence of contrary winds, she did not arrive at Hopedale till the 28th July, although the coast of Labrador presented the very unusual appearance of a sea entirely free from ice, and no obstruction from this cause was experienced, even in the narrowest channels. On the 8th August, the vessel left Hopedale, and proceeded northward, reaching Nain on the 10th, Okkak on the 22d, and Hebron on the 1st September. Hence she took her departure for London, on the 9th of the same month; and, after a voyage of five and a half weeks, once more anchored in the Thames on the 18th of October.

The Harmony has brought out, as passengers, Brother and Sister Meisner, and the single Brother Albrecht,—the latter on a visit to Germany,—the former with a view to retirement in one of our continental congregations, after a faithful and laborious service in Labrador—Brother Meisner of exactly forty years, his wife of thirty-four. The affectionate regard and good wishes of their fellow servants, and of the Esquimaux congregations, accompany them into their well-earned rest. It is a remarkable coincidence, that the very same day (18th August) on which Brother Meisner

reached Hopedale, in the year 1798, witnessed his final departure, in the present year, from that settlement, to which his services had been devoted for the last nineteen years of his abode in Labrador.

The Missionary labours of our Brethren have proceeded without any serious interruption either from within or from without, and the Divine blessing has not been withholden from them. At Hebron, the occupation of the newly built dwelling-house by the Mission-family, on the 6th October, 1837, and the solemn dedication of the neat and commodious church to the service of God, on the 11th of the same month, were occurrences which tended to give a festive character to the year in which they took place. To be permitted to see this house of prayer filled with devout worshippers, or with heathen, earnestly seeking the salvation of their souls, and willing to hear of Jesus the Friend of sinners, is now the fervent prayer of the Missionaries who are labouring at this rudest and most trying station. May it be favourably heard, and, in the Lord's own time, graciously answered.

In compliance with the kind invitation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, our Brethren have transmitted, for publication, a MS. copy of the Esquimaux version of the Four Gospels, which has been subjected to a careful and extensive revision in the course of the last few years. The first edition of this invaluable portion of Holy Writ, printed in 1814, having been exhausted, it is hoped, that the often-experienced liberality of the Society above mentioned, may enable us, ere long, to forward copies of a second and greatly improved edition, for the use of our Esquimaux congregations. Through the benevolent aid of the Religious Tract Society, we shall, at the same time, have it in our power to supply them with copies of two additional Tracts, which have been translated into the Esquimaux language by Brother Morhardt. Nor will the means be wanting, we are persuaded, for the printing of a translation of the "Summary of Christian Doctrine," in use in the Brethren's church, of which the manuscript has been transmitted to us.

The friends of the Society for the furtherance of the Gospel will be thankful to be informed, that the cargo brought by the Harmony is more considerable than that of last year; and though it is not likely to prove more valuable, owing to the general reduction of prices, there is reason to hope, that it may be sufficient to defray the charges of the outfit of the vessel for the ensuing year.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE BRETHREN'S SOCIETY FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL, FROM THE MISSIONARIES ON THE COAST OF LABRADOR, IN THE YEAR 1838.

"*Hopedale, August*, 1838.

"DEAR BRETHREN,—Our hopes having been prematurely excited by the report of a vessel cruising off the coast, which reached us on the 11th July, it was not without some feelings of impatience and

anxiety that we spent the fortnight, which was destined still to elapse, before the Harmony entered our Bay, on the 28th of the same month. We had, indeed, been prepared to expect her early arrival, from the circumstance of the sea having been, for some time, perfectly clear of ice. Nevertheless, though somewhat later than we had anticipated, we did not the less cordially hail her approach on the afternoon of the above mentioned day, or bring a feebler and colder sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to our gracious Lord, for this renewed proof of His loving-kindness and protecting care. We had soon the pleasure of being introduced to our future fellow-labourer, Brother Seldenschlo, to whom, as well as to our worthy friends, the captain and mate, we gave a hearty welcome. Our whole congregation having united in a public and grateful acknowledgment of the Lord's goodness, the members of our Mission conference assembled for the perusal of the letters addressed to us by your Society, as well as by our venerable Elders in Germany. Their contents interested us greatly, and encouraged us to renewed faithfulness, zeal, and perseverance in the work, which the Lord has been pleased to commit to our feeble instrumentality, and, by means of which, we confidently believe that, even on this distant and rugged shore, *He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.*

"We join you, dear Brethren, in thanking the Lord for the blessing which He has caused to rest on your endeavours to provide what is needful for the support of the Mission in Labrador, during the progress of another year; and we beg to express our gratitude to yourselves, to our kind friends in Edinburgh, and to all who have shown themselves benefactors to this Mission, for the tokens of Christian love which we have received. Not the least acceptable, among the presents sent us, were the musical instruments, by the use of which our congregational singing is greatly assisted and enlivened.

"Our Mission-family has been much exercised by sickness and infirmity during the last year. Our dear Brother Stock, who returned to us last year, apparently with recruited health, began to complain of indisposition soon after the return of the Harmony; his complaint, an affection of the stomach and bowels, resisted every means resorted to for its cure, and up to the present time, causes him much suffering, besides seriously impairing his activity. Sister Meisner was an invalid throughout the winter, and her dear husband was lamed by rheumatism for several weeks of the preceding autumn. Yet, notwithstanding these trying visitations, we have been enabled to provide for the due performance of the services of the Lord's house, and to attend to all the more important duties of our calling.

"The past winter was marked by peculiar severity. For weeks together, the thermometer was as low as from 26° to 30° under zero of Fahrenheit, during which period the N. W. wind blew with uncommon violence, drifting the enormous masses of snow which had fallen, against the doors and windows, and upon the roofs of our Mission-premises, so as almost to hide them from view. We were

much obliged to our Esquimaux for the service which they rendered us at this season, as without their friendly aid, the windows would have afforded us no light, nor the doors have supplied us with the means of going in and out of our houses.

"Among our Esquimaux there was an unusual mortality, one cause of which may probably have been the want of an adequate supply of blubber. However important it is that they should lay in a good stock of dried fish for winter provision, experience proves, that this description of food is not sufficient of itself to preserve them in health and vigour. Their constitution appears to require the more generous nutriment which is derived from the oily flesh of the seal. While the unhealthy season continued, it was a pleasure and edification to us to visit the sick and dying, and to converse with them upon the state of their souls. With few exceptions, their declarations were such as to convince us, that the Holy Spirit was carrying on a gracious work within, and that they had become savingly acquainted with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of their number, we have reason to believe, departed in reliance on the merits of their Redeemer. On the 6th of January, we had the joy to baptize into the death of Jesus, a young female, the only inhabitant of our place who had not previously been admitted to that privilege. This solemn transaction made a deep impression upon all present; the candidate answering the questions proposed to her with great readiness, and with evident emotion of heart.

"Our dear Brother and Sister Meissner, who are about to return to Europe after a long and faithful service in this Mission, take with them the assurance of our affectionate regard, and our best wishes for the health and comfort of their declining years. We pray the Lord to bestow upon them a reward of grace for their work and labour of love in this rude and distant land, and commend them, at the same time, to your kind and brotherly attention. Brother and Sister Knaus, from Okkak, are appointed their successors.

"In conclusion, requesting a continued interest in your prayers, we remain your affectionate Brethren of the Mission-conference at Hopedale. J. S. Meisner. Z. Glitsch.
J. P. Stock. C. F. Barsoe."

FROM NAIN.

August 17*th*, 1838.

"Dear Brethren.—On the 31st of July, we had the joy to hear of the safe arrival of the Harmony at Hopedale, and to receive your affectionate letter of the 25th May. The assurances which it contained of your continued lively interest in the work to which we are called, and especially of your cordial sympathy with us and our Esquimaux flock, under the trying circumstances of the preceding year, cheered our spirits, and strengthened our determination to devote ourselves, with full purpose of heart, to the great object of our abode among this rude and uncultivated people,—the gaining souls for Him who has purchased them with His precious blood.

"The benevolent participation of our dear Brethren and friends, in Great Britain, in the sufferings and privations to which our Esquimaux were exposed, during the winter of 1836—7, affected us deeply, and we beg to return our heartfelt thanks to all who have generously contributed to the relief of the prevailing distress. Our ideas on the establishment of a Savings' Bank, agreeably to a suggestion in your circular, we have stated in our reply to your financial letter.

The generous offer of the British and Foreign Bible Society, we accept with the sincerest gratitude, and take the liberty of sending you herewith a carefully revised copy of the Esquimaux version of the Four Evangelists, which was published at the expense of that Society about twenty-five years ago. We shall be greatly obliged by your laying it before the committee, and requesting them to undertake the publication of a second edition of this precious portion of Holy Writ. We also forward to you the manuscript of the lately completed version of the Summary of Christian Doctrine, in the hope that your Society may be disposed to undertake the printing of it.

"In the appointment of Brother N. Rea as chairman to your Society, and the departure into eternal rest of your faithful and esteemed colleague, Brother James Ridgway, we took a lively interest, fervently imploring the Lord to supply the places of those whom He is pleased, from time to time, to call home to Himself, by servants equally prepared to do His will, and promote the extension of His kingdom on earth.

"We return you our special thanks for the liberality with which you have again replenished our exhausted storehouses, and pray the Lord to continue to grant you the needful means for the performance of the duty which you have so willingly undertaken, and thus far so cheerfully performed.

"During the past year, the Lord has been graciously with us and our Esquimaux flock, and accompanied the preaching of His Gospel with evident blessing. The various services at church were diligently attended, and the good effects of the instruction received have been observable in the walk and conversation of many of our people, though of others we are constrained to express our fear, that they are not yet doers as well as hearers of the word. We pray that these unstable souls may yet be brought to experience the efficacy of that blood which alone cleanses from all sin. The schools were well attended during the winter, and the examination of the pupils gave us satisfaction.

"Our Esquimaux were favoured to enjoy a good state of health during the whole of last year,—a few slight indispositions excepted; and our Heavenly Father so far blessed their endeavours to obtain a livelihood, that none suffered absolute want. Though their attempts to take seals in nets were but partially successful, they obtained a good supply of these animals in the last quarter of the year, and again in the spring following, when they repaired to their provision-places.

"The old and fast-decaying provision-house for the Esquimaux, which occupied a position contiguous to the church, having been removed, by the help of rollers, to a distance of about 1000 paces, space has been gained for the enlargement of the church itself, which was much needed. To this work we propose to address ourselves without loss of time; but it will be a tedious task, unless we can obtain a little aid from Europe. A quantity of boards, for the interior work of the new building, and the providing of a set of benches, would be of essential service to us,—the more so as the timber of this country is not fit for operations of this kind.

"In the course of the past year, 6 couples have been married; 4 persons admitted to the Lord's Supper; 2 received into the congregation; 14 children baptized; 2 adults and one child departed this life; 7 persons came hither from Okkak. The number of souls under our care is, at present, 294.

"On the 10th of August we had the joy to see the Harmony cast anchor in our Bay, and to welcome Brother Seldenschlo, who has been appointed to assist in the work of the Lord at this station; for which service we implore the Lord to give him the needful gifts and grace. Our dear Brother Albrecht, who has been invited to pay a visit to Europe, we commend to your brotherly attention and regard.

"Accept, for yourselves, dear Brethren, the feeble expression of our love and esteem; and, convey to our unknown friends, both within and without the pale of the church, the assurance of our gratitude for their continued interest in the work committed to us, and the support they give to it, both by their contributions and their prayers.

"Remember us and our Esquimaux flocks at the throne of grace, and believe us to remain

"Your affectionate Brethren,

"JOHN LUNDBERG, FRED. C. FRITSCHE,
"J. CHR. BECK, C. G. ALBRECHT."

FROM OKKAK.

"*August* 21*st*, 1838.

"DEAR BRETHREN,—The hope which you express, in your kind letter, that the period of severe visitation, through which we were last year called to pass, may, through the Divine blessing, have conduced to the spiritual, and even to the temporal well-being of those to whom it was sent, is one which we were ourselves led to cherish, and we trust that it has not been altogether unfulfilled. While the trial lasted, many were, doubtless, the prayers which the sufferers sent up to the throne of grace, and which our compassionate Redeemer recorded in His book of remembrance, while he put the tears shed into His bottle. Yet while we are encouraged to believe that these supplications for

help and grace have been heard, that the good resolutions which accompanied them have been, in part at least, carried into effect, we are admonished by the experience of many years, not to expect too much from the latter. Meanwhile our dear Brethren and friends may rest assured that, in conferring benefits, or dispensing relief on their behalf, we endeavour to exercise the greatest caution, lest negligence, thoughtlessness, idleness, or even light-minded indifference, should be the result. In the views of our Brethren, at Nain, respecting the application of the sum of 15*l.* 11*s.*, which a few benevolent friends in England have placed at our disposal, for the relief of our Esquimaux, we entirely concur, and shall act upon them. The little fund raised by our dear Brother Kmoch for the same purpose, and of which he has destined the larger portion for Okkak, will be applied, agreeably to his wishes, in assisting the Esquimaux to pay their debts.

"Though we have not, this time, to tell you of trials and distresses like those which formed the leading topic of our last letter, we have still abundant cause to entreat you to pray the Lord to increase our faith. We have continued, though in much weakness, to attend to that ministry of reconciliation which our Lord and Master has committed to us, and to invite to the marriage supper of the Lamb, the souls redeemed with His precious blood; and we have reason to believe, that, by many, the invitation has been gladly received and obeyed, though there are others who still appear to make light of it. It is true, the services at church are often but indifferently attended; yet, for this circumstance, however sincerely we regret it, we can often find a sufficient reason in the very peculiar life our Esquimaux are compelled to lead. As long as they are residing with their families, at the settlement, we cannot complain of their negligence; their practice, as well as their expressions in conversation with us, testify that they are any thing but indifferent to this great privilege. The Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper they are accustomed to regard with great reverence; and we trust that they are increasingly led to understand and to enjoy the peculiar benefits, which these ordinances were designed to confer on the members of Christ's body. The desire of many to attain further degrees of Church-fellowship, we also consider as an evidence of a work of grace within, inasmuch as they obtain thereby no temporal advantage. In the last year, 17 were received into the congregation; one youth and 10 children were baptized; 5 became candidates for baptism out of the 8 inhabitants of our settlement who had not yet become partakers of this privilege; and 11 persons were admitted to the table of the Lord. The number of souls under our care, amounts, at present, to 334.

"Among the ten individuals who have departed this life, was a young single woman, whose truly Christian end proved an edification to all who visited her, and afforded a satisfactory evidence that our labours here are not in vain. After her enjoyment of

the Lord's Supper, for the first time in the course of last winter, she expressed a wish to her friend, that our Saviour would soon come and take her to Himself, lest she should be induced to sin against Him who had loved her so much. Her wish was soon fulfilled, for she partook of the sacred feast but twice here below. Three weeks after her second participation of it, she was suddenly attacked by violent bleeding at the nose, which no means resorted to were found sufficient to stop, and this proved the means of her speedy dissolution. Her happy departure made a deep and general, and we trust, a salutary impression. She was a pattern of obedience to her parents, who were deeply affected by her loss.

"The various Church-festivals were well attended by our Esquimaux, with the exception of Whitsuntide, at which season most of our people are absent from us; and the memorial-days of the several choirs and divisions of our congregation continue to be highly valued by those for whom they are appointed. From the Holy Communion they are seldom, and always unwillingly, absent;—as a proof of their love for this ordinance, may be mentioned the fact, that several Sisters travelled fifteen English miles on foot in order to attend it, although the ice over which they had to pass was covered with water, several inches in depth, a great part of the way.

"The schools we continue to account a very important object of our attention. Throughout the winter they were regularly held, and numerously attended. The instruction given is chiefly in reading and writing; but the children, including the youngest, who are not yet able to read, are taught the Apostles' creed, the ten commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. They also show great delight in learning portions of hymns, and passages of Scripture; and many have acquired considerable readiness in referring to texts, both in the Old and New Testament,—so much so, that they will often anticipate their teacher in this exercise. Even children of six years of age have acquired a surprising facility of reference. In the instruction given to our pupils, portions of Scripture history, and the history of our own Church, are not forgotten. We do not, at present, see the practicability of establishing an infant-school at this settlement, owing in part to the extreme severity of the winters, which often prevents even older children coming to school without the assistance of their mothers.

"Last year, a company of Northlanders paid us a visit. Among them was a boy who was detained here by his relations, and soon showed a great desire to continue with us, and become the property of Jesus. His demeanour was marked with great propriety, and we were much pleased to find, that the instruction which we gave him in reading was not thrown away. Before the end of the winter, he had learned to read tolerably well; and could profit by the meeting for religious instruction, which we hold every week, for the young people of both sexes.

"In temporals, our Esquimaux fared much better than the preceding year, though they were far from having a superfluity. Much sickness prevailed among them throughout the winter. Of our gardens we can make a good report, although, in the beginning of May, they were covered with snow to a depth of from twelve to eighteen feet. We were able, in June, to sow seeds and plant roots; and the fine warm season which has followed the cheerless commencement of the year, affords us every prospect of an abundant return. Meanwhile we shall be truly thankful for any supply of vegetables, either fresh or dried, which you may be able to add to our store.

"Our dear Brother and Sister Knaus have been appointed to the service of the Mission at Hopedale, to which settlement they will shortly proceed, accompanied by our best wishes and prayers.

"We commend ourselves, and the congregation we have the privilege to serve, to your affectionate intercessions at the throne of grace. "SAMUEL STÜRMAN, CHR. BENEDICT HENN,
"FREDERICK ERDMAN, GEORGE HERTZBERD."

FROM HEBRON.

"*August* 23*d*, 1838.

"DEAR BRETHREN,—The several subjects of your kind circular lead us to take a review of the way by which the Lord has led us, during the progress of another year; and to remind each other of the spiritual and temporal benefits we have received at His hands. We cannot forget the season of famine and distress through which we had previously been called to pass. As little can we omit to inform you, with joy and gladness of heart, that our Heavenly Father has approved Himself unto us, as He who giveth rain from Heaven, and fruitful seasons, and satisfies the desire of every living thing. Our Esquimaux had, on the whole, a productive summer; and, in autumn, succeeded in taking about 500 seals in nets. The Lord, likewise, laid His blessing on their endeavours to obtain other articles of food, so that they suffered no real want during the past winter. The dogs that survived the epidemic and the slaughter of last year, about fifty or sixty in number, multiplied in so surprising a manner, that few families are now without this customary appendage to an Esquimaux household. The present summer has not been favourable for the capture of seals,—the ice having become impassable rather too early. Our hopes are, therefore, anxiously directed towards the result of the attempt to take seals in nets, the failure of which would again lead to scarcity and distress.

"As to ourselves, we can truly say, that we have lacked nothing; though the want of fresh meat was sensibly felt by us during great part of the winter. Our garden produced a plentiful crop last year, and this year promises equally well. We shall, however, be truly thankful for a supply of potatoes, or any other vegetable you may be able to send us. Dried beans we need hardly say would be very

acceptable. For all your kind and thoughtful attention to our wants, and those of our Esquimaux, we thank you very cordially. With the exception of Brother Morhardt, who has had frequent attacks of giddiness in the head, the members of our Mission-family have enjoyed, on the whole, a good state of health; for which mercy we cannot be too thankful.

"In reviewing the spiritual benefits and blessings which we and our Esquimaux have received at the hand of the Lord, our attention is especially directed to the festival of the 11th of October, the day on which, with joy and gladness of heart, we dedicated our newly-built church to the service of God, the proclamation of His Gospel, and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Our new dwelling-house we had already occupied on the 6th of October, with praise and thanksgiving for the help experienced during its erection. For particulars of both these days we would refer you to the accompanying diary. We cannot, however, refrain from expressing our hope and belief, that the impression made upon our Esquimaux flock by the solemn services of the 11th has, in many instances, proved an abiding one. Frequent and fervent have been the declarations made to us, from time to time, of gratitude for the blessings then enjoyed, and the peace of God which pervaded their hearts while worshipping, for the first time, in this hallowed house. A further enjoyment, and, we trust, a spiritual one, was provided for our congregation, about three weeks ago, when, on the 4th of the present month, the organ which formerly stood in the prayer-hall of the widow's house at Herrnhut, was used for the first time at a service of thanksgiving in our chapel. It is, meanwhile, our earnest prayer, that all who worship with us, in our newly-built temple, may be reminded, by the neat and handsome appearance of its interior, that it is their privilege and duty to seek, through grace, for the renewal and adorning of the inner man of the heart, that they may become habitations of God through the Spirit. It is, also, our longing desire, when contemplating our spacious church, that it may soon be filled with the wanderers from Christ's fold, by whom we are surrounded; and that they may here be brought *from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God.* Thus far our Saviour has been teaching us the lesson of patience, which we pray Him to give us grace to learn, for we have, indeed, great need of it. It proved an encouragement to us to receive, as inhabitants of our place, a few weeks ago, a widow, with her child, who came to us from the heathen, expressing a desire to be converted.

"Our small flock of converts have, for the most part, afforded us pleasure, by their diligent attendance on the means of grace, and especially at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Not a few of their number showed the utmost attention at the meetings, and seemed fearful of losing a single word; and, in regard to such, we have been thankful to find, that what they have heard at church became afterwards a subject of conversation at home. The greatest disadvantage, against which we have to struggle, may be traced to

the circumstance of the majority of the heads of families having been born and brought up in heathenism, and having come to us at too advanced an age to learn to read. We, therefore, often find to our regret, that desirous as they show themselves to become and remain the property of Jesus, and to obey his commandments, they have an inadequate idea of the value of the word of God. Because they cannot read themselves, they appear ashamed to call upon the younger members of their household to read to them; and the latter from respect to their superiors, which, in this instance at least, is carried too far, are backward in offering to perform this service. Singing hymns is a favourite employment of the Esquimaux; and nothing is more common than to hear them, especially the women and children, joining in well-known verses in the open air. Several families have proved the reality of their hunger and thirst after the Word of Life, by their suffering no minor considerations to prevent their obtaining this spiritual nourishment.

"We were distressed to be obliged to exclude two married couples from Church-fellowship, but thankful that the offences of which they had been guilty, and which had been veiled for several years in impenetrable mystery, were at length brought to light; and *that* through the voluntary confession of one of the number, whose conscience had been awakened to a sense of his guilt.

"Our schools have afforded us much encouragement, and we have reaped evident advantage from the possession of an apartment that could be warmed. Our premises being very near the Esquimaux houses, even children below the ordinary age have been able regularly to attend. On one occasion, when we had thought of omitting the school for the youngest children, in consequence of the extremely cold and stormy weather, the voices of some of these little ones were heard, under the teacher's window, inquiring, "Will the bell not ring this morning?" and he gladly found himself constrained to keep the school as usual. The number of those who can read has increased; and although the progress of the little ones, in learning, is not so rapid as we sometimes wish, we are convinced that much is gained by their being early habituated to receive instruction, and to listen to what is told them of that Saviour who loves them so tenderly. We will not forget to follow your advice in regard to the catechization of the children, as we believe it to be a very important means of instilling religious truth.

"The distribution of the copies sent us of the Prophecies of Isaiah, has produced great and general joy; and our chapel-servant Renatus, commissioned us, in the name and in the presence of his Brethren, to return the warmest thanks for this gift to the British and Foreign Bible Society. The two printed tracts, which are already in circulation, we have reason to believe have not been read in vain. Some of our people expressed to us their joy at finding that others had made experiences of the grace of Christ similar to their own. Others appeared to be brought to serious reflection by their perusal, and to be powerfully convinced that they, too, required

a change of heart. Others, again, were led to sigh for a similar assurance of peace and comfort as that which was vouchsafed to "poor Joseph." We are thankful for the kind offer made us by the Religious Tract Society to print some additional tracts for us, and are glad that Brother Morhardt is able to send two which he has translated for this purpose. By the return of a sledge-company, who pay us an annual visit, from the Koksoak, in Ungava Bay, for purposes of traffic, we shall have great pleasure in sending a number of interesting English tracts for the use of the settlers in that district.

"During the past year, six adults were baptized, and three admitted to the Holy Communion at this place. The number of souls committed to our care amounts to 156.

"We have still to notice the gracious preservation which we experienced at the hand of the Lord on January 15th, when, in consequence of a quantity of shavings in our work-shop taking fire, our whole Missionary premises were in danger of being entirely consumed. The fire was providentially discovered in time; and, although no water could be obtained at the moment, means were found for the immediate extinction of the flames. Our thankfulness for this merciful interposition was unbounded; and we received our dwellings as bestowed upon us for the second time by our gracious Lord Himself. May He be pleased to protect them for the time to come,—to make them His own abode,—and to rule and direct, by His Spirit, all who shall inhabit them!

"We commend ourselves to your continued brotherly affection and support; and beseech you to remember us, and our Esquimaux flock, at the throne of grace.

"J. L. Morhardt, Jon. Mentzel,
"Ferd. Kruth, August Freitag."

EXTRACTS OF PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM NAIN.

"You will receive this year a carefully revised and corrected copy of the Esquimaux version of the Four Gospels. It is our wish that you would kindly present it to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and request their benevolent assistance in obtaining a reprint of this invaluable portion of Holy Writ for the use of our congregations,—the former edition being completely exhausted. We should be very thankful to have 1000 copies struck off, of which 500 might be set apart for present use, and the remainder kept on hand till the other portion of the New Testament, which is now in progress of revision, can be got ready for the press, and the whole bound up together. We venture thus freely to state our wishes, though without presuming to prescribe to our esteemed benefactors.

"We are greatly obliged to the Religious Tract Society for the supply of English tracts which they have sent us for distribution

among the visiting Southlanders; and we have also to express our thanks for the Prayer-books which we have obtained, for the same purpose, through the kindness of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. We shall endeavour to turn both to good account.

"In the course of the past winter, I have visited all our settlements upon this coast. I never return from such a journey without feelings of liveliest gratitude to the Lord for His protecting care, vouchsafed during its progress; and that I am permitted to reach home alive, and without frozen limbs. Such an expedition is always fatiguing, and often perilous; yet he who is called to perform it, in the service of our Saviour, may depend on His gracious assistance, amidst all the difficulties he may meet with. Wherever I came, I was favoured to meet with the most kind and friendly reception, both from my fellow servants and the Esquimaux; and, in their fellowship, I soon forgot the inconveniences of the journey. Of the perils to which our people are occasionally exposed while engaged in the seal-hunt, especially on the ice, the following narrative from the lips of our Esquimaux Brother Paul, may afford some idea:—'I had caught a couple of seals, and lay thankfully down to rest the same night in the snow-house, which I had constructed at no great distance from the margin of the ice. Before the day dawned, I was, however, roused by several signal-shots from my companions who were to the northward of me, and my attention was immediately directed to the whistling of the ground-swell, which was moving and gradually breaking up the ice around me. Amid the darkness of the night, and a thick fog, I hastened with my sledge towards the land; and it pleased God to give success to my endeavours to reach it, though with the loss of the seals. While the fragments of ice behind me were successively carried out into the open sea, I found it no easy matter to track my way in safety, first to the solid ice, and then to an island, which having reached, I returned my humble thanks to the Preserver of my life, and adored Him with trembling knees.'

"The clarionet which was sent me last year I forwarded to Hopedale, where they were in want of one; and I am again without this useful instrument. It was a grief to us to be under the necessity of excluding from the congregation our Esquimaux organist, on account of transgression. Mark having departed last year, we have only a young single Brother, at present, of whose services we can avail ourselves, and *he* is a mere beginner.

"J. LUNDBERG."

"The produce of our gardens was last year much greater than usual, and the present genial season leads us again to hope for a plentiful return. Our friends in Europe can scarcely conceive what an enjoyment it is to us to take a stroll in our gardens at the close of the labours of the day. All we have just now to complain of, is the damage done by the swarms of mice. I cannot help

wishing that a goodly number of foxes would come and make a meal of them, from whom we would require nothing but their own skins in the way of payment. "F. C. FRITSCHE."

(To be continued.)

TO THE BRETHREN'S SOCIETY FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL, AND THE FRIENDS OF THE MISSION OF LABRADOR, ASSEMBLED IN LONDON.

"*Nain, August* 17*th*, 1838.

"DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST,—When I had lately the favour to be in the midst of you, I had a great desire to salute you, by word of mouth, and to offer you my cordial thanks, and those of my countrymen, for your great kindness. Owing to my ignorance of your language, this desire remained, however, unfulfilled. Meanwhile my faithful God and Saviour has brought me, in safety, to this distant land, in which He was graciously pleased to ordain that I should serve Him, even before I saw the light of this world. In this new station, it is His will, that, under the constraining influence of His love, that I should show forth His praises, *who has called me out of darkness into His marvellous light.* I would, therefore, with all humility, address you with the salutation of the first Apostle of the Gentiles—*Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ,* Rom. i. 7; adding to it the declaration contained in the following verse, the applicableness of which, to yourselves, has been often impressed on my mind during my voyage hither:—'Inasmuch as it is well known, that your love to Christ, and His cause, is much spoken of in other lands, in our day, and your zeal for the furtherance of the Gospel among Christians and Heathen generally, acknowledged.' Great was my joy, and my surprise, to learn, on arriving in London, that you are not satisfied with contributing to the maintenance of Missions in Labrador, West Indies, South Africa, &c., but that you have also stretched out your hands to relieve the temporal wants of our dear fellow-servants in Esthonia and Livonia, thereby ministering to the spiritual necessities of my poor countrymen in those provinces, for whom they have undertaken to care. Ever since I heard of this further evidence of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and love unto all the saints, *I have not ceased to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers*, Eph. i. 15, 16. I can also assure you, that many a prayer of faith, and of blessing, will ascend, on your behalf, to the throne of grace, from the poor Esthonian and Livonian peasantry. May He graciously accept your offerings of love,—bestow on you, even in this present time, His peace and benediction,—and, on the great day of account, rejoice you with those gracious words—'*Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my Brethren, ye have done it unto me.*' Matt. xxv. 40.

Accept these few lines, which have flowed out of a heart full of love and gratitude; and remember, in your prayers, your unworthy Brother in Christ, "CH. GEORGE SELDENSCHLO."

LETTER FROM AMOS, AN ASSISTANT, AND CHAPEL-SERVANT, AT HOPEDALE.

"*Hopedale, July* 30*th*, 1838.

"WE thank the Lord our God, and Saviour, exceedingly, that our ship arrived here on the 28th of July.

"I have now something to write to you. Our Brother and Teacher, Samuel Meisner, has, for many years past, laboured with great faithfulness and love to bring us to Jesus our Saviour, and has often reminded us of the great love of Jesus. I am very much attached to him, and wish to see him constantly; but, since our Saviour has been pleased to finish his work among us, I submit, although, I fear, I shall never see him again on earth. Meanwhile, I desire greatly to meet him again in the presence of Jesus, though I feel unworthy of such a favour, on account of my frequent transgressions, disobedience, and unfaithfulness. The thought that Jesus came into the world to save such as mourn for their sins, can alone comfort me. I entreat Jesus, in my prayers, that He would protect my dear Samuel, who is now departing from our land, bearing him up in His strong hands on all his journeys, so that he may reach his native country without accident, and that his children may be rejoiced by the arrival of their dear parents.

"I also beseech our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone is able to uphold His servants, that our great teachers [the Bishops and Elders of the Brethren's Church in Europe] may be preserved in holiness before Him,—that they may continually edify the congregation of Jesus,—and that we, with all our Brethren and Sisters in London, and in England, and in all the world, may be strengthened in the faith until the end of time; for Jesus hath said, *that he that endureth unto the end, the same shall be saved.* My prayer is, therefore, *Lord Jesus, increase our faith! I believe,*—dear Lord,—*help thou mine unbelief.*

"Praised be God, that He protects and feeds His congregation, and subdues the enemies of His people, and brings them to shame. He beholds all their works, and chastises those who are disobedient to His commandments, that they may be brought to repentance; and because he Himself was tempted, He is able to succour His people in their temptations.

"The Brethren and Sisters in London I salute heartily; also the congregations in other countries.

"Grace and peace be with you, from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

"My dear Brother, Samuel Meisner, I beseech Jesus our Saviour, that you may be able to bear in mind those comfortable words: '*Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been*

faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.' The right hand of the Lord lead and protect you on your journey. I shall never forget you as long as I live. *I have a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better.*

"I wish much to receive a letter from you; even if it should not be written with our words, it will be made intelligible to me. Although we are no longer near each other, as to the body, we have one and the same Lord who cares for us both."

This is the writing of Amos, of Hopedale.

[From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.]

III. GREENLAND.

We have again the pleasure to lay before our readers a gratifying statement of the progress of the Mission in Greenland. It is derived, in part, from a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Society by Brother M. Eberle, of Lichtenfels, and partly from a short report of the Mission-Board, at Herrnhut, relative to the three other stations. The year past is described as having been a period of comparative plenty and prosperity along the whole coast of Greenland. The natives had a sufficiency of their ordinary food, and the Missionaries were abundantly supplied with wholesome vegetables, the produce of their gardens; and, in one instance at least, with the nutritious flesh of the reindeer. They enjoyed, on the whole, a good state of health: and were able to prosecute their labours, of various kinds, on which the Lord was pleased to command His blessing.

At New Herrnhut, the meetings and schools were well attended; and though the Missionaries had the grief to discover, on the return of the people from their provision-places, that several of their number had fallen into transgression, they were afterwards comforted by the signs of genuine repentance exhibited by the offenders, and their consequent re-admission to the privileges of the church.

Many encouraging traces of the work of the Spirit of God were observable among the congregation at Lichtenau; and this was particularly the case, on occasion of the baptism of an adult heathen into the death of Jesus, which took place on the 1st of April. Brother Uellner arrived at the settlement, in safety, on the 11th of July, having previously paid a visit at New Herrnhut, into the neighbourhood of which he was conveyed by the vessel in which he had taken his passage.

Fredericksthal was visited, during the winter, by many heathen from the eastern coast. Of these, some showed a great desire to hear the Gospel, and gave good hopes that they may be gained for Christ. These visitors had left their umiaks, or women's boats, sixty miles off, on account of the ice, which impeded their

advance. The majority of the baptized honoured their profession of the Gospel by a godly walk and conversation; and the schools were diligently attended, not only by the children, but likewise by many adults, desirous of instruction. At the several outplaces, 138 members of the congregation resided, who were often inaccessible on account of the ice. The Missionaries remark, that the Greenlanders around them improve, from year to year, in orderly and provident habits; and that many show a praiseworthy diligence in providing the necessaries of life for themselves and their families. The really destitute, of whom there is always a considerable number, have been assisted, both here and at the other stations, with food and clothing, for which the *fund*, recently established for their relief by the liberality of their kind friends in Europe, has supplied the means.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BROTHER MICH. EBERLE.

"*Lichtenfels, June 12th*, 1838.

"DEAR BROTHER,—Accept my best thanks for all the interesting intelligence conveyed to me by your last letter. I can say, with truth, that your countrymen are very dear to me, and an object of my continual and fervent prayer, not only because we have ourselves so often partaken of their bounty, but likewise, and especially, because they exert themselves so much for the extension of Christ's kingdom. Oh, how many souls have they already been the means of rescuing from the power of Satan, through the blessing which has been laid upon their labours of love! And what should we, who in great weakness go down to the battle, be able to effect, were we not supported by the prayers and the bounty of our dear fellow-soldiers, who, for the present at least, are commanded to tarry by the stuff. Of the reward which is promised by the great Captain of our Salvation, to His faithful followers, we are assured they will obtain their full portion.

"We have again been permitted to spend a year of peace, and of spiritual and temporal prosperity, in fellowship with our dear Greenland flock. The summer of 1837 proved so fine and fruitful, that our gardens flourished to a degree that I have never before witnessed. We had such an abundance of cabbages and turnips, that we were able to make our children a very great treat at Christmas. You should have seen their pleasure when each one received a turnip,—one of the greatest delicacies that can be set before them. Many of them literally trembled with delight. Last autumn we were so fortunate as to obtain a quantity of reindeer flesh from our Greenlanders, sufficient to last us till the April following. We have thus been blessed with a year of unusual plenty. Nor were our Greenlanders less bountifully dealt with by our gracious Heavenly Father. He gave them a large quantity of herrings, and fine weather for drying them; and, as they were very diligent in collecting and housing this

provision, which stands them in the place of bread, they had a good supply of food for the winter. The Danish factor likewise profited by their success in catching seals, owing to which they had a good stock of oil to dispose of. After several years of more or less severe privation, the abundance of food provided for our dear people, by the kind providence of God, excited both them and us to fervent thankfulness.

"We can also tell of many spiritual blessings, vouchsafed during this period. Last autumn, when our Greenlanders returned from their summer excursions, we soon perceived that some of the young people had become high-minded, and were disposed to break through the wholesome restraint imposed upon them. As soon, however, as we spoke seriously with them upon the subject, setting before them the spiritual danger which they were incurring, and reminding them of the price which our Saviour had paid for their souls, they became tractable and serious, and conducted themselves, during the winter, in a very quiet and edifying manner. A few instances of gross unfaithfulness, which had occurred during the reindeer-hunt, were, however, permitted to try our faith and patience. The offenders having themselves come to us, and with tears confessed their sin, we could do no other than direct them to that Saviour who never rejects the prayer of the true penitent. After a sufficient period of probation, they were, at length, readmitted to the privileges of the church, at their earnest and frequent request. A re-admission of this kind is a very solemn and affecting service; the poor people, to whom it immediately refers, appear like persons who are experiencing a new birth; and their countenances assume such a cheerful aspect, that it is impossible not to rejoice with them over the mercy which the good Shepherd has shown to them. The meetings, last winter, were diligently attended; and our gracious Lord laid an abundant blessing on our testimony of His love unto death. Oh! how thankful are we unto Him, that He preserves to the members of our Greenland flock a real hunger and thirst after His precious Word, and that He causes the doctrine of His cross to be the power of God, unto their salvation. At Christmas, we had the pleasure to see most of our Brethren and Sisters from the out-places, and to celebrate with them a lively and blessed festival. By the spiritual enjoyments of such a season, they consider themselves abundantly rewarded for any hardships and privations which they may have experienced, on their journey to the settlement. Some of them live at a distance of twenty miles. At Easter, we were visited only by such as live in our immediate neighbourhood; the more distant were kept at home by the ice, which completely blocked up the narrow inlets through which they must pass. When we afterwards saw them, they complained bitterly of the circumstances in which they are placed, not only on account of the spiritual loss they themselves sustain, but also, and especially, on account of their children, who are hereby deprived, to a considerable extent, of

the benefit of Christian education, and the means of grace. May the Lord have pity upon, and incline the heart of our Sovereign to give directions for their release from their present state of durance!

"The past winter was moderately cold, but commenced early. In December, it froze severely; and, towards the end of February, a storm from the south blocked up all our bays and creeks with drift-ice, so that, even from the highest mountains, not a drop of water was visible in a direction seawards. This blockade of our coasts continued, with little intermission, till the middle of May, during which lengthened period the Greenlanders were able to catch but few seals; and would, consequently, have suffered severely from hunger, had they not laid in a good stock of herrings. The present summer has set in favourably, so that we hope for a productive season. On the 25th and 26th of May, the ground was sufficiently thawed to admit of our digging and planting our gardens, and the young herbs are already in a thriving state. Meanwhile our people are likewise gathering in their harvest, for the herrings are abounding in our seas. The supply of seals is also pretty good; for which we cannot but be thankful. A season of scarcity, in this frozen land, is a dreadful visitation, as you may easily conceive. To behold our suffering fellow-creatures wandering about like so many spectres, without having it in our power to relieve their misery, is, indeed, more than we can bear.

"We were much affected to hear of the decease of our valued friend, Mr. Plenderheath, of Edinburgh. The Lord has, we are persuaded, remembered the many acts of kindness, done unto this Mission, by this His servant, and rewarded them accordingly. Our long-tried benefactress, Miss M. Aikman, will accept, for herself and her benevolent associates, the cordial thanks of our Mission-family for the present of a ton of biscuit which she has forwarded to us, and a variety of other useful articles, which, however, we have not yet received, though we have news of the ship that is conveying them.

"The Lord has mercifully helped my dear wife and myself through another year; for which we thank Him heartily. I am, however, concerned to say, that I feel my health and strength declining; and that, owing to the weakness of my chest, singing and speaking have become painful to me, especially in very cold weather. At the age of sixty-five, and at the close of thirty-four years of service in this rude climate, during which I have encountered many severe fatigues, and trials of various kinds, I cannot be surprised that I am no longer able to bear the burden which has hitherto been laid upon me. Under these circumstances, I shall be compelled to ask leave to retire to Europe,—a step which I shall not take without the deepest regret, for I feel the strongest attachment to my dear Greenland flock, and experience from them the love and confidence due to a father. Remember us in your prayers. "J. M. EBERLE."

(From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.)

IV. SOUTH AFRICA.

The intelligence from this extensive field continues to be of an interesting and varied character, though, in the present, as in many a former instance, it is chiefly derived from the diligent pen of the superintendent of the Mission. It will be observed, with satisfaction, that Brother Teutsch, who had but just recovered from a serious illness, had already set out on his visit to the Fingo refugees in the Zitzikamma district, where the majority of these outcasts have been located by the Governor of the colony. His report, on the practicability of establishing a Mission among them, will be eagerly awaited by his fellow-servants in the colony, and their Brethren and Friends in Europe. At Enon, some partial alleviation of the distress which has so long prevailed, had been experienced at the date of Brother Hallbeck's last letter; but the continuance of the drought rendered any attempt at cultivation of the soil as hopeless as ever. Under these circumstances, the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel cannot but feel thankful to the Lord, for having inclined the heart of one of its oldest and kindest friends to place at its disposal the sum of 50*l.*, for the supply of the more immediate and pressing necessities of the Hottentot population of that settlement. This act of spontaneous liberality, which is herewith gratefully acknowledged, will, we are persuaded, be productive of a twofold benefit—in the direct relief which it will be the means of affording to the famishing people, and in the encouragement which it will not fail to administer to the Missionaries, who are appointed to watch over their temporal as well as their spiritual well-being. It is hardly necessary to add, that the Society will thankfully receive, and faithfully apply, any donations that may be still received for the same charitable object.

Of the intelligence from Genadendal, perhaps the most interesting feature is the increasing usefulness of the young Hottentot, Ezekiel Pfeiffer, on whom an important spiritual charge, connected with the religious instruction of the children belonging to that station, has recently been conferred. May the Lord preserve to him an humble and teachable as well as a willing and devoted spirit!

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS FROM BROTHER H. F. HALLBECK.

"*Genadendal, July* 10*th*, 1838.

"Dear Brother,—My last two communications of May 21st, and June 18th, were but short and hurried notes, the last written in Cape-Town, and intrusted to the hands of a worthy Missionary from Java, Mr. Guericke. It is, therefore, high time that I should endeavour to give you a more detailed account of our proceedings. My health, after which you inquire, I am happy to say,

continues good; indeed, it has sensibly improved during the year which has past since my return to this country. There are few, if any, of our number, whether young or old, so entirely free from ailments of any description, as I am at present. This is a mercy for which I cannot be thankful enough, and of which, as acting physician, I am daily reminded, by continual intercourse with a number of patients who are less favoured than myself. The health of my dear wife is also better than it used to be; and she enjoys no less than myself the company and assistance of our daughter.

"According to the last letters, and what I observed myself in Groenekloof, Elim, and Hemel-en-Aarde, the Brethren and Sisters at the different stations are well, with the exception of Brother Teutsch, who, I am sorry to say, has hitherto been prevented from undertaking the journey to the Fingoes, to which he had been appointed, by a tedious indisposition. On the first of this month, I had the pleasure to administer holy baptism to five adults, and to partake of the Holy Communion with one hundred communicants at Elim, on which occasion nine were present as spectators. The neat village of Elim now consists of seventy-three finished Hottentot dwellings, besides the Missionaries' houses, and several buildings, not yet completed, belonging to the members of the congregation. A tannery has been established since Brother Teutsch's return to Elim, which promises well; and a Hottentot, trained at Genadendal, has established a joiner's shop on his own account, and the Missionaries do their best to encourage him, and help him forward. The course of the congregation is on the whole cheering; and the inhabitants of Houtkloof continue to give the Missionaries much pleasure.

"Here at Genadendal, the quiet satisfactory course of our congregation was, some weeks ago, interrupted by a disagreeable occurrence. A number of our young folks, who returned from military service last year, took it into their heads to have a merry day after the fashion of soldiers, and, after having procured several bottles of brandy from a neighbouring farm, which they emptied in a distant glen of our lands, were involved in dispute and fighting. They were, of course, publicly excluded, and a meeting for all our adult inhabitants was convened, in which the necessity of united exertions for the total abolition of the use of brandy was strongly, and, I believe, successfully urged,—so much so, that I am fully convinced, the unprincipled vendor of this pernicious drug, will have to wait long before he pockets another penny from our people. Unpleasant as this whole affair was, it cannot be denied that it was connected with several consoling circumstances, and has eventually been productive of good. It is, for instance, satisfactory to know, that the young, thoughtless persons, were obliged to have their meeting in the field, at a distance from the place, there not being a single house in Genadendal where such disorderly conduct would have been tolerated. It was, also, some consolation to us, that none of them attempted

to deny or palliate their guilt, and that all appear to be truly penitent, and fully determined to amend their ways, and to avoid the use of brandy; and, above all, we have reason to rejoice, because the measures adopted to prevent similar scenes, in future, have evidently made a salutary impression on the whole congregation, and roused many a one seriously to consider his ways. Of this we have had several pleasing proofs of late, and particularly in the course of last week, when we held the general speaking with all the inhabitants. Faithful members of the congregation seemed more than usually earnest in seeking the one thing needful, and in preventing others from running into mischief: those who have been led astray, were, to a man, ashamed of themselves, and anxious to retrace their steps; and several individuals made voluntary confession of former deviations, in order to obtain peace for their consciences. In consequence of this speaking, forty-four adults were advanced in the privileges of the church; and, the day before yesterday, we had a very solemn congregation-day, when six persons became candidates for baptism; six were baptized; seven received into the congregation; sixteen were spectators at the Lord's Supper; and nine were re-admitted to the congregation or the communion. With a view to meet the wants of our young and middle aged Brethren and Sisters, and gradually to lead them into the habit of using their leisure hours for reading and mental improvement, by which much mischief may be prevented, we have resolved to hold an evening school for adults once or twice a week, and 112 individuals have applied for admittance, with whom the school will be opened this evening, all the Missionaries taking a share in the instruction, which will consist in reading both Dutch and English, learning passages of Scripture and hymns, writing, and mental arithmetic. May our Saviour add His blessing, and make it conducive to the great object of our Mission,—that of winning souls for Him. The other schools are zealously attended to by the several teachers, both natives and assistants: one of the boys, under instruction for future usefulness, has already commenced, in various ways, to lend his aid in the boys' school. We are now busy with the interior of our institution, and hope to be able to open one half of the building for use on September 12th,—a day memorable in the annals of our schools, as being the anniversary of the opening of our infant-school, or its birth-day, as the infants are accustomed to call it.

"Ezekiel Pfeiffer continues to give us great satisfaction. I lately took him with me to Cape-town, to obtain medical advice for him; and I am glad to find, that there is every prospect of his health being fully re-established.

"The ploughing season has, in these parts, been very favourable, owing to steady and abundant rains, and the consequence thereof is also felt in the reduced price of the necessaries of life. I now employ a number of Hottentots in planting forest-trees of various descriptions, which, like our former groves, will, I trust,

prove both an ornament and an advantage to our establishment.

"The temporal affairs of Groenekloof, where I spent a few days in June, continue to prosper beyond our most sanguine expectations; and the Missionaries are very anxious to promote the spiritual growth of their increasing flock by every means within their reach, nor does the Lord withhold His blessing. For the prosperity of their schools, it would, however, be of the greatest importance, if they could obtain, as we hope will be the case ere long, such an assistant as we possess.

"Enon suffers more than ever by drought, and want of water; and serious apprehensions are entertained, that the few remaining stagnant pools will dry up altogether, in which case it will be impossible to hold out any longer. As it is, the greater number of its inhabitants are absent, and several families have removed to Shiloh, or the Kat river. The Missionaries, however, continue their labours in hopes of better days, and commend themselves to the prayers and sympathy of all their friends. It is not unlikely that the same cause, which occasions so much distress and anxiety at Enon, also gives rise to the bold and numerous depredations which are said to be committed by the Caffres, and which our government find it as difficult to repress as the Caffre chiefs.

"I have had no recent letters from Shiloh; but, according to the last advices of May 10th, the Missionaries were well, and enabled to carry on the work of the Lord without molestation. Their schools and meetings were well attended, though they were not permitted to see those fruits of their labours which they so anxiously desired. Brother Bonatz has composed a school-book for his pupils, in the Caffre language, containing Scripture histories, of which an edition of 500 copies will shortly be printed in Cape town."

"*August* 21*st.* We continue busily occupied with the completion of our school-building. With all my heart, I thank our Saviour, for having helped us thus far, and averted all injury from the labourers; and there are few, I believe, that view this new and beautiful feature of our village without emotion, for it surpasses any thing of the kind in our whole neighbourhood, and would, indeed, be considered no mean ornament of one of our European settlements. My feelings of joy and gratitude, are however always chastened by those of anxiety for the prosperity of the more important spiritual structure, to the raising of which, the visible walls are only the outward means, and unceasing are my prayers and supplications for the support and guidance of the Lord our Saviour. Ezekiel Pfeiffer, under whose immediate inspection the boys are placed, continues to give us every satisfaction. Since his last birthday in July, he has been called upon, now and then, to hold a children's meeting, to which he acceded, not without a trembling sense of his inability and unworthiness. It was on the 15th instant that he addressed the children, for the

first time in our church. He was greatly agitated as the hour approached, but, as he told me himself, all fear left him, as soon as he was seated behind the table. From several adults, who were present, I have heard with pleasure, that his address was very edifying, and they declared with tears, that they had enjoyed a blessing, which they should not easily forget. May he continue as he has commenced, and, through the grace of our Saviour, become more and more useful among us, and the promising first-fruits of a rich harvest! I am very thankful for the collection which you announce, towards the fitting up of the little chapel at Houtkloof.

"Brother Teutsch having recovered from his indisposition, left Elim with his wife on the 2d instant, and is probably about this time at or near Enon. According to letters from the last-mentioned place, the Brethren had been obliged to dig in the low places of the river, formerly called Zeekoegats, (or pools of the Hippopotamus,) to obtain a necessary supply of water, and had so far succeeded, that they hoped to be able to hold out longer than they at first expected. The Missionaries there, and at Shiloh, were well at the commencement of the present month. At Shiloh, they had the happiness, in July, of baptizing six individuals, two Tambookies and four Hottentots. Their new water-mill was finished; though it does not appear to answer as well as was expected, probably owing to some mistake in its construction. The Governor had been in the Winterberg with a view to visit Shiloh, but was prevented by the state of the weather; he has, however, promised to pay the Brethren a visit before he leaves the Eastern frontier. One of the Fingoes of the Zitzikamma had been at Shiloh, and told the Missionaries that his people had applied to the Governor for teachers. This is interesting, as we learn thereby, that, if we should commence a Mission in the Zitzikamma district, our Brethren will be welcome among the people. The emigrant farmers are said to suffer great hardships in their various camps, and are looking out for more fighting in September and October next. The last news from that quarter seems to have damped, in some measure, the unaccountable mania for emigration.

"We have every reason to rejoice in the hopeful state of our numerous congregation, for, though there are, no doubt, instances of lukewarmness in some, and sinful practices in others, yet, on the whole, we never witnessed more earnestness in seeking the one thing needful, nor was there ever a time when it could, with more truth, be said, that there was but one heart and one mind among the whole flock. Our school for adults is increasing from week to week, and our lending library is in brisk circulation, so that we have not one volume on hand, for as soon as one is brought in, it is immediately issued to fresh applicants. The people are particularly anxious to learn English; though as yet, I have had no other means of instruction, than writing English verses and passages of Scripture with chalk on a black board.

Dr. Philip has, however, promised to supply me with fifty English Testaments out of his stock, and I should feel thankful, if you would have the goodness to apply for a couple of hundred English Testaments and some Bibles from the Bible Society in London, and to let me know, at the same time, at what prices they can be sold, as I have no doubt many of our people would be glad to possess their own Testaments.* I had four or five English Hymn-books to spare, which I purchased in London, and the Hottentots have gladly bought them, and requested me to write for more."

"*August* 31*st.* I have just received an order from Cape-town, for 5 or 6,000 lbs. of Bukku leaves, which will give profitable employment to a great number of our poorer class between this time and the approaching harvest. Since the date of my last, I have had letters from Groenekloof mentioning that they have followed our example, and established an evening school for adults; also that an encouraging awakening has taken place among the few families residing with Captain Klapmus at Laueskloof. Two old persons, the one formerly a Mahommedan, have departed this life in a very happy frame of mind, and the old Captain himself, who has turned a deaf ear to all admonitions for these thirty years, now appears willing to come in at the eleventh hour.

"I am glad to say, that our school-house is just finished, and with its regular flower-garden, refreshing water-stream, and green entrance-gate in front, presents an object quite novel in these parts of the world. The 12th of September is now finally fixed for its solemn opening, on which occasion the number of pupils will probably be increased. Two promising boys have just been offered me by their parents, who wish to dedicate them wholly to the Lord.

"O may we have grace given us duly to employ the means, which have so unexpectedly been intrusted to us, for the establishment and furtherance of our Saviour's cause! This is a prayer which ascends from my heart, both day and night, and of which I am reminded, whenever the new building meets my eye. The months of May, June, and July, were in these parts wet and stormy; but August has been extremely warm and mild: hence vegetation is more forward than usual, and the swallows, which generally return about the 8th or 9th of September, have been with us after their winter migration, for some time. Thus far the crops promise well; but the farmers begin to look out for rains. Both here, and in our neighbourhood, the Missionaries are in tolerable health: may the Lord preserve to us this blessing!

"H. P. HALLBECK."

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* Two hundred English Testaments, and fifty Bibles, have already been kindly placed at the disposal of Brother Hallbeck, by the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in consequence of this application.—ED.

(From the "Periodical Accounts," &c.)

V. WEST INDIES.

After three successive years of sore bereavements, we had ventured to indulge the hope, that the year 1838 would be permitted to reach its close, unmarked by any additional trial of a similar nature, occurring within the borders of our West Indian field. Our wise and gracious Lord has, however, seen fit to ordain otherwise; and we have again to invite our Brethren and friends to mourn, with us, the loss of a servant and handmaid of Jesus, who have long laboured cheerfully and faithfully as messengers of the churches to the negro race. By the translation to eternal rest of our dear Brother and Sister Light, the Mission in Tobago has experienced a severe stroke, and our Missionary band in the West Indies has been deprived of two of its most valuable and generally esteemed members. Of our venerable Brother, it may, indeed, be said, "*that he has come to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.*" After thirty-four years of diligent and successful toil in the islands of Antigua, Jamaica, and Tobago, he has been permitted to enter into the joy of his Lord, leaving to his younger fellow-servants an example of faith, and hope, and love, which they will do well to follow. His just appreciation of the calling, and cordial attachment to the principles of the Brethren's Church, were only exceeded by the overflowing affection, which he cherished for all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and by the earnestness of his desire, that the work of his blessed Master might be duly wrought on earth, whatever servants He might condescend to employ for its performance. The departure of his estimable wife, within a month after his own decease, though doubtless, a happy event for herself, has added greatly to the affliction of the survivors of the small Mission-family at Montgomery. May these experience a large measure of the Divine consolation and support!

The particulars, contained in several letters from the West Indies, of the conduct of the negroes belonging to our church, on occasion of the late important change in their condition, will be perused with unfeigned satisfaction, and with thankfulness to the Giver of all good. We would direct especial attention to the interesting account, furnished by Brother Zorn, of the truly devotional celebration of the memorable 1st of August by the negro congregation at Fairfield, in Jamaica,—a celebration so entirely in unison with the spirit of the Brethren's Church, and the feelings of all its faithful members. It is pleasing to learn, that the prospect of Missionary usefulness, in Barbadoes and St. Kitts, continues to brighten, and that new doors are opening for the religious instruction of the negro population of those islands.

1. JAMAICA.

FROM BROTHER JACOB ZORN.

"*New-Eden, August 7th,* 1838.

"Dear Brother,—You will be anxiously looking out for accounts of the manner in which the glorious 1st of August passed off. As far as I can learn, the negroes, with few exceptions, have conducted themselves with the greatest propriety, and to the satisfaction of all their friends, both in the prospect of the great change, and in the celebration of the day itself. I believe it has been religiously observed throughout this island, as a day of thanksgiving to the Almighty Disposer of events, who doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, none being able to stay His hand, or say unto Him, what doest thou? Most cheerfully do I attest the decorum observed, and the deep feelings of gratitude evinced by the people around Fairfield. Of course, while we rejoice with our sable flocks, that slavery, a curse to any land, is abolished, and that, by the generosity of British Christians, they are placed on an equal footing with their fellow-subjects, we cannot but feel somewhat anxious, till the new system is fairly at work. May the Lord over-rule and direct all for the best!

"I proceed to give you a short account of the manner in which we celebrated the day at Fairfield.

"On the eve of it, we had a well-attended meeting in which, with penitent confessions and earnest supplications, we sought pardon for all the transgressions of this people, and of our land generally, beseeching the Father of Mercies to blot out of the book of remembrance the crying sins of this island. During the night, parties of our people arrived every few minutes, and kept our premises alive with the hum of expectation for the coming dawn. Soon after 4 o'clock, our chapel bell gave notice that the expected day was at hand, and as soon as it was light, we assembled on the terrace, behind the chapel, in the open air; and never shall I forget the sight. About 1,500 negroes, clad in white, stood in ranks with the greatest order and silence imaginable; such as I had never witnessed on any occasion, where a number of persons were assembled in the open air. The deepest solemnity, and the warmest feelings of gratitude, seemed to pervade every breast; and all appeared anxious to testify, that they ascribed this change to the wonder-working hand of our God, and were ready to ascribe to Him the praises due unto His name. This service was conducted with hymns of thanksgivings and praise, with the reading of appropriate psalms, and a short address, and both Brother Prince and myself, with the crowd of worshippers, on our bended knees, under the canopy of Heaven, returned humble thanks to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, and besought His further blessing on this island, and on all classes of its inhabitants. When we had concluded, our con-

gratulations were received with affectionate responses, but no noise or exuberant demonstration of joy disturbed the solemnity of this morning scene; a hum of deep feeling was all that was heard, for some time after I had closed. At 10 o'clock, we assembled for the second service. About 1,000 persons crowded the chapel and school-room, and a greater number were addressed by Brother Prince in the rear of the Refuge school-house. I endeavoured to improve the words: "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." In the opening part of my address, when I alluded to the advantages for mental and religious improvement the negroes now possess, compared with former times, I was thrice agreeably interrupted with a buzz, as if with common consent, "Yes, Massa, thank God! we do thank the Lord for it! bless the Lord!" I certainly believe, that while the negroes feel the obligations they are under, to their Christian friends in Britain, they gratefully acknowedge, that the hand of a gracious and merciful God has been manifest in this great change, and, therefore, I cannot but believe, that the Lord has thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to this island.

"In view of the great evils of intemperance, which has been on the increase during the last few years, owing to the establishment of a number of rum shops, and the probability of further temptation to the labouring class, and desiring to see them *free* from this vice likewise, we then formed a Temperance Society, and 134 men signed the pledge to abstain from spirituous liquors. We did not ask any females; but this is such a hopeful beginning, that we do expect much good from it. At the Mico establishment, at Comfort, a Society was also formed, which numbers eighty subscribers."

"*Fairfield, September 24th*, 1838.

"Your letter of July 16th referred principally to the training of teachers at the Mico establishment, at Kingston. I have seen Mr. Wallbridge, the superintendent of that institution, and I believe we should have no difficulty in procuring admission for the six candidates whom the trustees have generously permitted us to send free of expense, if we had them in readiness to be sent. He tells me, that the young men in connection with various societies, at present in training, is fifteen, and that the number will be limited to thirty. I dare say we shall get all in whom we are able to send. I regret that, owing to my multiplied and varied engagements, this important subject has not had the attention from me that it deserves. Meanwhile I am instructing the young black man, whom I wrote about some time ago, previous to sending him up to the Mico training school, and I continue on the look out. I have just now two in my eye, but they are rather too young, in my opinion. I should like them to be eighteen or twenty, so as to show the bent of their character."

FROM BROTHER C. F. KOCHTE.

"*New-Eden, September 27th*, 1838.

"My dear Brother,—At the speaking with our baptized and communicant members in the latter part of July, I addressed them on the subject of their approaching freedom from earthly bondage, and gave them some advice, respecting the new and important condition into which they were about to enter. Their replies gave me reason to hope that my words would have a good effect. At 7 o'clock in the evening of July 31st, I held a meeting which was numerously attended by the hitherto apprenticed negroes, whose minds seemed indeed solemnly and seriously impressed. We concluded the service with prayer and thanksgiving, and besought the Lord specially to bless *all* the promoters of the abolition of slavery.

"Very early in the morning of the 1st of August, the people began to congregate for the celebration of this memorable day, most of them dressed in their best attire; and at 7 o'clock service commenced. Such a concourse of people assembled for the preaching at 11 o'clock A. M., that scarcely a third could find room in the chapel. I addressed them on Psalm cxxvi. 3. You may imagine what I had to feel in a low and crowded building, the heat being above 90° of Fahrenheit. Though there remained hardly a dry thread on my body, and my exhaustion was great, yet on leaving the chapel, and finding such multitudes standing without, who had been silent during the service, I could not refrain from addressing a discourse to them also. Then followed a meeting for the congregation members, in which I took Col. iii. for the theme of exhortation. The great exertions I had made in the month of July and the first days of August, my wanderings by sea and land since April, and the great heat, caused such an accumulation of bile, that on August 3d, I was seized with a violent bilious attack, not very different from the fatal yellow fever. Having tried strong medicines unsuccessfully, I was prevailed on by my dear wife, to send for Dr. Davy and Brother Zorn, on Sunday, August 5th. When the fever had somewhat abated, Brother Zorn, by the advice of the Doctor, removed me to Lookout, the property of our Sister Ann Angell, where it is much cooler than at New-Eden. There the sickness returned so violently, as to leave hardly a hope of my recovery; yet, thanks be to God, the complaint took a favourable turn. I was, however, so much weakened, by the immense quantity of calomel which I had taken, that it was five weeks before I could venture to return to my post. I was much affected to hear many of our church-people exclaim, 'Master, we are very happy to see you come back. We have prayed much that the Lord would spare your life, and restore you to us!' My first business was to see how the negroes on the estates had conducted themselves, and I was grieved to find that some of them had been idle for weeks, hav-

ing been led astray by some who pretended to be their friends. They have, however, with few exceptions, gradually returned to their work. And now the necessity of getting employment is more and more felt by them. I am happy to say, our negroes attend church so diligently on Sundays, that our chapel is much too small to hold all who come."

2. ANTIGUA.

EXTRACT OF THE DIARY OF THE NEGRO CONGREGATION AT ST. JOHN'S, 1837.

January 1st, Sunday. Brother Harvey preached, in the morning, from James iv. 15:—"If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that;" and, in the evening, from Josh. xxiv. 15:—"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In the afternoon-meeting, twenty persons were admitted to the rite of confirmation by Brother Thraen.

7th. On Saturday evening, was held the usual Epiphany and New Year's Meeting, with the Brethren and Sisters engaged in the service of this congregation; including the missionaries, helpers, assistants, church-servants, school-teachers, and collectors of the Friendly Societies; of whom 176 Brethren and Sisters were present. They were exhorted and encouraged anew to be "steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord;" that being severally engaged, each one in his station, "as God hath set us in the Church," and "having gifts differing according to the grace given to us, we might minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God; that God, in all things, may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

On the same day, departed this life the venerable helper, John Taylor, having been above thirty-four years a member of this congregation. He was, for some years, afflicted with severe rheumatic pains, which contracted his limbs, and caused him intense suffering. But, truly "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was exceeding abundant" in him: rising superior to his bodily infirmities and pains, and breaking forth in expressions of resignation to the will of God, and the trials of his lot. Above all, his mouth overflowed with gratitude and praise for the sufferings of Christ his Saviour, upon which were founded his unshaken confidence and hope of salvation; and which lifted up his heart in holy aspirations to his dear Saviour, whom he could address, with confidence, as "his Lord and his God." We particularly remember a most blessed enjoyment of the Lord's Supper, with "the church in his house;" consisting of himself, his wife, two helper Brethren, the Missionary, and "the great Master of Assemblies"—that blessed Saviour who promised, that where two or three should meet together in His name, He would be in the midst of them; and while we showed forth His death, and earnestly prayed to be made partakers of its merits, until we should meet at His feet above, we were richly blessed with a

sense of His love shed abroad in our hearts. At the close of the meeting, we all stood awhile, in solemn silence, about the bed of the patient, each one being unwilling to break in upon the blessed feeling of Divine peace and heavenly joy, which so richly comforted our hearts.

Our late Brother was, for many years, a pensioner of the Society of Friends, and described, in their books, as "confined with painful and almost constant suffering." He frequently expressed his gratitude for the relief thus afforded him, in common with many others, from the benevolence of our esteemed Friends. About 100*l.*, sterling, per annum, has thus been distributed, for many years past, in small weekly allowances, to poor destitute persons in this island, through our hands,—a charity so disinterested on the part of the donors in England, that we feel it equally a pleasure, and a bounden duty, to acknowledge it on every occasion.

21*st.* The island of Antigua is but precariously supplied with water, there being no river here, and hardly any springs, so that the inhabitants have to depend upon the rain gathered into cisterns from the house-tops, for their own use, and the supply of rain to the ponds for the labouring population, and the cattle. The island has, consequently, had to experience some long-continued and distressing droughts, occasioning severe suffering to man and beast. Thus, in the year 1731, a single pail of water sold for 3*s.* In 1779, famine and disease prevailed, and great distress for want of water. Nearly one-fifth of the negro population are said to have died of dysentery, from the putrescent state of the pond-water which they had to drink. In 1789, there was no rain for seven months: the crop was destroyed, and 500 horned cattle perished.

At this time we were also visited with a severe drought, being nearly thirteen months without any rain. The manner in which it is described in the public papers, and in connection with the good conduct of the peasantry, is important to be recorded:—"The drought has destroyed the product of the negro grounds. No crops are expected on some estates to windward. The continuance of the drought has cast a visible gloom over the public mind. It is some alleviation, that the conduct of the peasantry is, on the whole, steady, industrious, and generally satisfactory."

29*th.* Six adults were baptized, thirty-three received into the congregation, (having been already baptized,) and twenty-two re-admitted.

At the examination of candidates, before their admission to these privileges, we sometimes meet with cases of gross ignorance, especially among the Africans; and are obliged to remand them for further instruction. At other times we are again encouraged with the simple declaration of such as are "made wise unto salvation" through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ: in whom we see the words of Scripture verified, 1 Cor. i. 27, 28; Matt. xi. 25. Our engagements are such, that we cannot always note

down their sayings at the time; but on the present occasion, call to mind the following: "He born de (meaning Christ was born *there* at Christmas; pronounced like the French word de.) He die de (Good Friday;) He rise de (Easter;) They nail em to he gallows. They take em down, and put em in ground, and bury em. But he no 'tand de (he did not stay there;) he off to he Father; soul and body altogether; and God have pity on em, and give em every ting. (See Phil. ii. 9. 11; Eph. i. 20, 22.) We say we know what he done; but we no believe 'em good: we say so here, but when we out of the gate we forget 'em, and then we do wrong ting." Another said, "I pray our Saviour to take all badness out of me heart; and give me wisdom, and sense, and understanding; and make me give up me (whole) heart to He." An intelligent woman, of colour, described herself, very feelingly, as being like a leaky cistern, that lets the water run away—an idea of peculiar force in such a country as this, and in time of drought too; being, also, so very impressive of the mind of the apostle in Heb. ii. 1.

February 2*d.* The twenty-second anniversary of the Antigua Auxiliary Bible Society was held in our school-house, and attended by a numerous auditory, who were addressed by two of the clergy, the Wesleyan Missionaries, and the Rev. James Thome, from America, Brother Harvey being the acting Secretary. Since the year 1816, our Missionaries, in Antigua, have tendered their assistance to this Society; from which, also, we have here, as elsewhere, received repeated and important assistance, in disseminating the Word of God among our people. During the last six years, the sum of 276*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* has been collected in our congregation for this society.

10*th.* The foundation-stone of a new Wesleyan chapel, in St. Johns, was laid by the speaker of the house of assembly. A deputation of our Missionaries attended, by invitation, and delivered a congratulatory address on the occasion.

18*th.* The poor people of the town have now to fetch water, on their heads, from an estate a mile and a half distant. We hear them passing along the way, backwards and forwards, often through the whole night; and sometimes see them come back, in the day-time, with empty pails, and uplifted hands, there being watchmen set to keep the remnants of water on the neighbouring estates, where the cattle are perishing daily, and those that remain having scarcely strength to walk. The present drought is described as "the most unmitigated that has occurred for the last thirty years." It is truly pitiful to behold so real a representation of the words of the prophet, in their description of the Divine judgments of old. See Jer. xiv. 3, 4; Joel i. 18–20.

March 19*th.* Brother Harvey preached at Hodge's estate, one of our outposts; and afterwards baptized a man, named Duke, on his sick-bed. He was remarkably clear in his apprehension of the doctrine of Christ crucified; and his declarations of faith and love towards his Saviour, were truly edifying: affording such an instance

of intelligence, and Christian feeling, as we are not favoured to witness every day. He was baptized Bennet, after the name of Brother Harvey's son, present at the time; and departed this life after eight days' further trial of his faith and patience.

March 25th. Great Sabbath. The usual Easter-Meeting and Love-Feast, was held with the servants of the congregation; who were anew exhorted to live for Him, who died for us and rose again.

26th. Easter. A multitude of people (supposed full two thousand) assembled here before sun-rise, to celebrate "the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." At the same time the Easter-Litany was read by Brother Hartvig in the burial-ground, and by Brother Harvey in the church; after which, as usual, the history of the day was read, both in the church and school-house, to attentive and overflowing congregations. The services were well attended through the day; and it being prayer-day, two adults were baptized, twenty received, and seventeen re-admitted to the congregation.

April 2d. Quasimodo geniti. Of 333 persons admitted to church privileges since Easter last year, 246 were present to-day at the annual love-feast, and exhorted to walk "worthy of Him who hath called them to His kingdom and glory."

14th. A daughter was born to Brother and Sister Harvey, and baptized on the 8th of May by Brother Hartvig, with the name of Harriet.

18th. The acting governor issued a proclamation for a general fast, on account of the severe drought; which was duly observed on the 28th, in all the churches and chapels throughout the Island. Brother Harvey preached in the church from Joel i. 14, and Brother Thraen at the same time in the school-house, from Isaiah xxvi. 16. After which the congregation was particularly addressed from the Lord's Prayer.

May 29th and 30th. We were blessed with an abundant fall of rain, all over the island; more than has fallen at any time since September, 1833.

June 11th. The Brethren Hartvig and Thraen were attacked with an epidemic rheumatic fever; and Brother Bayne had in consequence to come from Gracehill to attend to the meetings in town. Thirty-seven persons were confirmed in the afternoon.

16th. Was observed, by appointment, as a day of public thanksgiving for the relief from the long-continued drought, afforded by the late copious rains. The church was well attended, and Brother Thraen preached from Psalm lxv. 2.

29th. Brother and Sister Gardin arrived from London, at English harbour; from whence they proceeded first to Gracehill, and then to St. John's.

July 8th. Brother Harvey returned in fifty hours from Barbadoes.

15th. Sister Gardin departed this life, after a sojourn among us of only fifteen days. Thus again has this Mission had to suffer the loss of a promising assistant, and another Missionary of

a needful help-mate in his work. It is, however, a blessed consideration to know, that our late Sister was herself better prepared to leave us, than we were to part with her so soon; having more than once intimated to her husband her conviction, that she should not be long engaged in labour here below. However strange, therefore, the Lord's leading may appear in this instance, we are compelled to say, "It is the Lord! let him do what seemeth him good." May he abundantly comfort our dear Brother Gardin, under the cross he has had thus early to bear in his missionary calling; and support him in the various duties falling to his lot!

August 2*d.* We were visited with a heavy gale, which proved to be the outskirts of a hurricane that fell heavily upon St. Thomas, St. Kitts, and Barbuda. The only ship remaining here was driven on shore, and totally wrecked; and most of the small craft in the harbour also stranded.

December 25*th.* The Christmas meetings were well attended, the people very orderly and attentive, and we trust that many hearts were anew excited to rejoice in that faithful saying, worthy of all acceptation, "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

January 1*st*, 1838. *Monday.* Brother Harvey preached in the evening from Luke xiii. 8, 9.

3*d.* Brother Newby removed from Cedarhall to St. John's: a part of Brother Harvey's house there being prepared for his future residence. He is above 75 years of age; and has been engaged 29 years in the service of this Mission, at Gracehill, St. John's, and Cedarhall.

9*th.* Departed this life, Matthew Patterson, for 37 years a member, and 15 years a helper of this congregation. He was one of "the poor of this world rich in faith,"—a man who walked humbly with his God.

In the afternoon was held the yearly love-feast of the Benevolent Society; at which above 950 persons were present.

22*d Sunday, Quasimodo geniti.* Eight adults were baptized, and 29 received into the congregation. Of 408 persons admitted to privileges in the church since Easter last year, 283 were present to-day at the usual love-feast, and exhorted to give diligence to make their calling and election sure.

April 29*th.* The widows' Memorial-day was held; 382 of their number having been individually spoken with in reference thereto in the preceding week. The morning blessing was held by Brother Newby, the love-feast by Brother Gardin, and the homily by Brother Harvey.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

1. South Africa.—Brother Hallbeck communicates in letters dated November 13th and 28th, the information that Brother and Sister Teutsch had returned about the end of October to Genadendal, from a journey undertaken in the business of a Mission about to be established among the Fingoes, having also visited Enon and Shiloh, and that on November 4th, Brother Christian Ludwig Teutsch, was ordained by Brother Hallbeck at Genadendal, a Presbyter of the United Brethren's Church; whereupon he returned with his wife to Elim. Measures will immediately be taken for the establishment of a Missionary station among the Fingoes in Koksbosch in the Zizikama, as they are very desirous of it; and Brother and Sister Halter of Enon, and Brother Christian A. Küster of Shiloh, have been commissioned to begin the work. Brother and Sister Hofman of Shiloh, are to spend some time at Enon. The latter place had been refreshed in the course of the month of October, by repeated rains, which improved the pastures, but had not yet brought down the river. The Missionaries do not suffer their courage to fail; business was prosperous, and they hoped to see the end of their season of trial. The internal course of the congregation is encouraging; the number indeed has diminished, in consequence of the drought, but on the whole their external tribulation seems to have had a salutary influence on their internal state. The British and Foreign Bible Society presented 100 English Bibles and 200 New Testaments, for the use of the congregations in South Africa.

2. West Indies.—On Antigua, Brother Christian R. Möhne, of Cedar Hall, departed this life, aged 38 years. At Basseterre, St. Kitts, a new school-house was solemnly opened on the 16th of October. On the 10th of the same month, the foundation of another at Bethesda was laid. The schools at all the stations were on the increase. Brother and Sister Morrish of Newfield, Antigua, have received a call to the service of the Mission on Tobago.

3. South America.—Brother Passavant had returned from Charlottenburgh, where he had gone for the benefit of his health, to Paramaribo. His stay there had been beneficial to him; nevertheless, although his strength had returned, he continued to suffer so much with asthma, that he was totally incapacitated from the prosecution of his labours, and contemplated in March to set out on his return to Europe. On the whole, the Missionaries there had suffered much from indisposition, and were retarded by it from their regular visitations to the plantations.

Brother and Sister Wünsche, the new Missionary couple to Surinam, had been forced by stress of weather to run into the port of Falmouth, but had left again on the 25th of December, in good condition, and arrived on the 28th of January, safely in Paramaribo.

The single Brother Joh. Gottlob Stanke, in Herrnhut, has been called to the service of the Mission in Surinam.

4. Greenland. Labrador.—On the 3d of March, Brother Caspar Kögel, from Lichtenfels in Greenland, and Brother Carl Gottfreid Albrecht, from Nain, in Labrador, were ordained at Herrnhut by Bishop Jacob Levin Reichel, deacons of the United Brethren's Church, and on the 8th they set out on their return to their posts.

5. North-America. Extract of a private letter from Brother Miles Vogler, dated

Cherokee Mission, Arkansas, April 26th.

"The settlement around us is very dense, and the meetings are numerously attended. There is indeed a wide field of usefulness opening here, and the cry for labourers will soon be heard from afar. . . . Brother George Hicks, (native,) together with those members who came with him, are staying about 40 miles from here. I want to visit them soon. We have a great deal to do here, and it will take some time to get fixed, only tolerably. We had a large audienoe last Sunday. We greatly need a suitable house for our meetings, and one that would contain two or three hundred persons. The internal state of the Mission is encouraging at present. Two persons, one quite an aged man, the other a youth who was formerly a scholar at Spring place, will soon be confirmed. We humbly pray that the Lord will own and bless our feeble labours."

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